

Routine Proceedings

We have introduced it in response to 43,000 petitioners and after extensive public consultation. People are expressing their concern that our water, especially in the case of the North Thompson River, ought not to be for sale.

This act is necessary due to the government's failure to recognize that our water resources are in jeopardy due to its haste to ram the North American free trade agreement through Parliament. International resource management and international legal affairs experts have concluded that, because the government has failed to negotiate specific exclusions for the bulk export and transfer of water in both the free trade agreement with the United States and the North American free trade agreement with Mexico and the United States, water is a trade commodity as identified in these two agreements and under the GATT becomes a legitimate export commodity out of Canada into both the United States and Mexico.

Literally thousands and thousands of British Columbians, supported by people across the country, have indicated that they want this legislation passed before Parliament recesses to safeguard our freshwater rivers and lakes.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Mr. Riis moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.

Mr. Riis: Point of order, Madam Speaker. There have not been consultations and I wonder if you would find there is unanimous consent in the House that this matter be referred to the appropriate standing committee as soon as possible.

May I seek that unanimous consent?

Madam Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. member have unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: No.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Obviously there is no unanimous consent to send this bill to committee at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE**THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Madam Speaker, arising from the presentation a few moments ago of the report by the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture with respect to television violence I would like to present the following resolution:

Whereas this House received a petition on November 18, 1992 from Ms. Virginie Larivière of St-Polycare, Quebec, containing 1.3 million signatures expressing serious concerns about violence on television in Canada and calling for government action to address the moderation of such violence; and

Whereas such petition was referred to the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture for study and report which has been tabled in this House today;

That this House, as one important measure to contribute to the over-all reduction of violence in Canadian society, calls on all Canadians to exercise their utmost influence in all reasonable ways to control and diminish the portrayal of violence on Canadian television screens; and

That this House call for initiatives to be taken jointly by the federal and provincial governments and the industry to develop a universal film, video, and television program classification system for Canada.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, there has been some consultation with the Official Opposition, particularly the hon. member for Mount Royal, and the Official Opposition wishes to give its consent to this motion.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, there have been consultations. I must say on behalf of the New Democrat caucus that we enthusiastically support this resolution. As a matter of fact, we would like to see it go a lot further but this is a first step.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Madam Speaker, I do support this initiative. It is an excellent one and I think the independents are certainly in favour of it.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Madam Speaker, I want to say that we in the Bloc quebecois were also consulted and that we support this motion.

I may add that once again, we were only given the English version of the motion. I would appreciate it if from now on, we could have it in French as well.