

*Routine Proceedings*

● (1510)

**PETITIONS****NATIONAL FILM BOARD**

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition signed by about 100 residents of Saskatoon protesting the closure of the National Film Board office in Saskatoon. That would leave Saskatchewan along with Newfoundland as the only provinces in Canada without a National Film Board presence, another nail in the coffin of our national institutions across this country.

**DRUG PRICES**

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by 299 people from all across Saskatchewan. They are protesting Bill C-91 which basically increased the price of drugs in Canada by reducing the availability of generic brands. They are calling upon the government to repeal Bill C-91 and to look to the interests of Canadians and their health care in order to ensure that drugs are a more reasonable price.

**RURAL POST OFFICES**

**Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed to the minister responsible for post offices. This subject perhaps has taken a new slant with the new minister but I do have an obligation to present these petitions anyway. I have been sitting on them here for a week or so.

The petitioners are from little places in rural eastern Ontario, for example Lansdowne, Elgin, Westport, Gananoque, and so forth. They express real concerns about the previous government's position in reference to rural post offices.

Rural residents think they deserve the same postal services as urban residents of Canada enjoy. The previous government pillaged small towns in rural Canada.

They ask that the new minister responsible for post offices take a new look at this and he already has. The petitioners are asking the new minister to restore complete postal services to rural communities. They have grown accustomed to this service through the years and would like to see it restored.

I support these petitioners as do many of our rural caucus.

**KILLER CARDS**

**Mr. John Maloney (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of the constituents of Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold.

This petition adds more names to the growing number of Canadians who are fiercely opposed to the importation of killer cards. Not only do these cards glorify murder and criminals who commit horrific acts of violence but they act as a daily reminder to the victims' families and friends of the brutal violence that struck down their loved ones and struck down their security and faith in humanity.

The constituents of Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold do not want these trading cards in their communities. Those who have signed this petition affirm that: "We abhor crimes of violence against persons and we believe that killer trading cards offer nothing positive for children or adults to admire or emulate but

rather contribute to violence. We ask that the laws of Canada be amended to prohibit the importation, distribution, sale, and manufacture of killer cards and to advise producers of killer cards that their products if destined for Canada will be seized and destroyed".

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**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 4.

[Text]

**Question No. 4—Mr. Taylor:**

What steps have been taken by Revenue Canada since the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada regarding the Glenn Williams Case (92 DTC 6320) requiring Revenue Canada to reconsider its interpretation of the scope of the exemption from income taxation due to Indians under the jurisdiction of the Indian Act?

**Hon David Anderson (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, following the decision rendered by the Supreme Court, the department reviewed the decision and issued a preliminary position near the end of 1992. A period of transition was put in place to allow Revenue Canada time to assess the scope of any negative impacts of the case and to allow affected individuals and organizations time to reorganize their affairs.

To clarify the application of the Indian tax exemption, revenue officials received input throughout 1993 from Indian organizations and individuals regarding the types of situations that could be affected by the Williams decision. Between June and October 1993, meetings were held across Canada with interested parties. In addition to the input obtained at the meetings, the department has received close to 250 letters and submissions from interested parties.

The department, based on all the input obtained and a sound analysis of the case, developed proposed guidelines for the interpretation of the Williams decision. The guidelines are a fair and liberal interpretation of the tax exemption provided by the Indian Act.

The draft guidelines were sent to some 200 Indian organizations and individuals on December 15, 1993. The department will accept comments on the draft guidelines until the end of March 1994. As the guidelines were not issued until near the end of 1993, the government is extending the transition period for existing employment arrangements to December 31, 1994. This will allow those who may be adversely affected to study the guidelines and rearrange their affairs if they so wish.

**The Deputy Speaker:** The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

**Mr. Milliken:** I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.