

to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 and the Criminal Code in consequence thereof.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

**Mr. Speaker:** When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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● (1220)

[English]

### PETITIONS

#### UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FAIR ORAL HEARINGS BEFORE REFUGEE BOARD

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of Canadian citizens who are concerned that Bill C-55 threatens Canada's traditional commitment to assisting refugees and sets out measures designed to keep most refugee claimants out of the country rather than ensuring that genuine refugee claimants are given protection.

The petitioners point out that Bill C-55 will result in many, perhaps most refugees who reach our border, being turned away without having their claims heard on the merits of their case, and that by limiting the right of appeal to points of law, this legislation ignores the reality that most refugee claims are questions of fact and credibility.

The petitioners go on to point out that a standing committee of this House has proposed a new procedure for refugees which, if adopted, would fairly and effectively solve problems of backlogs and unsubstantiated claims. However, the Government has chosen to ignore that.

Therefore, the petitioners call upon Parliament to ensure that Government and Parliament withdraw Bill C-55 and substitute legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board which is independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada and the right to appeal on the basis of fact.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition under the provisions of Standing Order 106 on behalf of citizens of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Edmonton, Alberta. The petitioners say that Bill C-55 threatens Canada's traditional commitment to

### Petitions

assisting refugees and sets out measures designed to keep most refugee claimants out of the country as opposed to ensuring that genuine refugee claimants are given protection.

The petitioners therefore humbly pray and call upon the Government and Parliament to withdraw Bill C-55 and substitute legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board which is independent of the Immigration Commission and universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada, and the right to appeal on the basis of fact as well as law.

[Translation]

#### OPPOSITION TO BILL C-22

**Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by residents of my constituency of Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic, who are against Bill C-22.

In the opinion of those constituents, the Government's proposals will raise the already high costs of drugs, particularly for provincial health-care programs. They also deplore the fact that drugs will cost more to four million Canadian men and women who are not protected by private medicare programs.

They humbly call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase drug prices.

[English]

#### UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FAIR ORAL HEARINGS BEFORE REFUGEE BOARD

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions signed by residents of British Columbia as well as residents of Toronto and Ontario who raise concerns with respect to Bill C-55. The petitioners suggest that this legislation threatens Canada's traditional commitment to assisting *bona fide* refugees and sets out measures designed to keep out most refugee claimants from Canada as opposed to ensuring that genuine refugee claimants are given protection.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to ensure that the Government withdraw Bill C-55 and substitute legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the refugee commission, universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada and the right to appeal on the basis of fact as well as law.

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition signed by an number of citizens of Windsor and Amherstburg, Ontario, expressing concern about the Government's proposal for Bill C-55. The petitioners point out their concern that the Bill will in fact lead to many refugees being turned away without having their claims heard on the merits of the case.