

argue about being taken by surprise. The request was made a week ago by the Prime Minister. After four or five days I suppose they have been able to read the letter. All they have to do is say yes or no.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, just to show the Government House Leader, before he goes into the Liberal convention, that I am a person of some considerable compassion, I have listened to what he has had to say and I will give his request the most serious consideration.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### PETITIONS

MR. BLAIKIE—VERNON ARMY CADET CAMP

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Winnipeg who are concerned that vacancies for the cadet leader course at the Vernon Army Cadet Camp have been halved recently, resulting in an unavailability of positions this summer at the Vernon Army Cadet Camp. They are concerned that at least 11 members of the Winnipeg, Manitoba-based army cadet corps may not be able to attend this course despite their earnest desire to do so. Therefore they call upon Parliament to instruct the Department of National Defence to increase enrolment in the cadet leader course in Vernon, B.C. this summer.

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEX OFFENDERS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to present a petition from a number of citizens in British Columbia, mostly from the municipality of Surrey, who are very concerned that the law relating to known sex offenders loitering around areas frequented by children is defective. Therefore, they appeal to the House of Commons to ensure that that law is remedied so that children will receive proper protection. I submit this petition and urge the Government to take action on it.

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present several petitions from different municipalities in British Columbia. The first one contains some 340 names. It is from parents of children living in Vancouver City and has to do with asking that Section 175 of the Criminal Code be amended. There was an error in the original section. They ask that this law be changed so that children will be safe against known sexual offenders.

I have a similar petition from North Vancouver and West Vancouver with about 30 names, asking for the same change in the Criminal Code inasmuch as the peace officers do not

have power under the present Code to protect children against known sex offenders.

Similarly, there are some 50 or so names from Richmond, Delta and Langley municipalities in British Columbia. These are largely parents of school children. They state that our present federal law system is void and, because of an error at this time, our children receive no justice in any way. They say the law should be immediately rectified so that growing children can be safe against these scaring offenders. The children should be protected from known sex offenders.

Similarly, I have several petitions from Surrey and North Delta in British Columbia. They also ask that the Criminal Code section be changed.

I would like to say that I presented several hundred petitions to this effect formerly. I hope the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) is taking note and will do something about this situation. It is very important to parents.

**Mr. Speaker:** I commend the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) for the way she has dealt with a number of petitions and summarized them. Her conduct is exemplary in that respect.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a large number of petitions with hundreds and hundreds of names of people from British Columbia, drawing to the attention of the Minister that Section 175 of the Criminal Code must be altered to permit more protection for young children from sexual offenders and child abusers. The names on the petition are by and large from parents of children in a variety of schools, indicating a concern for individuals who are known sex offenders lurking and loitering in areas around schools. They are concerned that the present law makes it very difficult for law enforcement officers to provide the appropriate protection for young people and ask that Section 175 be reviewed.

• (1530)

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to follow the exemplary practice of the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) when presenting these petitions. I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of my constituents from Burnaby, the North Burnaby area and the Burnaby Mountain area. This petition raises very serious concerns with respect to what the petitioners allege to be a weakness or deficiency in the present provisions of the Criminal Code with respect to known sex offenders that is found in Section 175(e) of the Criminal Code. They urge that what they view as this anomaly in the law be rectified in order that their children may be safe against the offenders to whom they refer. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

I have as well a petition signed by a large number of constituents from the South Burnaby area to the similar effect. I will not repeat the contents of the petition other than to indicate once again that these petitioners are some 20 constituents who are extremely concerned that, in their view, having