

Petitions

pray and call upon all Members of this Parliament to support this motion when it comes for a vote in Private Members' Business.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—POSSIBLE LOSS OF BENEFITS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from hundreds of residents across this land. From Ontario, the communities of Dresden, Thamesville, Chatham, Tweedsmuir, Kitchener, Guelph, Jarvis, Ottawa, Nepean, Gloucester, Orleans, London, Winchester, North Bay, Toronto, Ajax, Thornhill and Kanata; from the Province of Quebec, Charlesbourg, Ste. Foy, Aylmer, Gatineau; from Nova Scotia, Oakum Secum, Porter's Lake; from New Brunswick, Bathurst and Beresford; from Saskatchewan, Regina; from Manitoba, Winnipeg; and from British Columbia, Vancouver, Port Alberni and Prince Rupert. These hundreds upon hundreds of petitioners point out that the Forget Commission report on unemployment insurance has proposed a system of annualization which would reduce benefits to the unemployed over-all by 31 per cent forcing over 62 per cent of the unemployed to live on less than \$140 a week. That is less than welfare pays to a single parent with a child in most provinces.

Furthermore, by its proposal to eliminate regional extended benefits, it would be taking \$1 billion in income transfers out of Quebec, \$660 million out of the Atlantic, \$670 million out of the west, and devastating the regions with the highest unemployment in Canada. Therefore, the petitioners, hundreds upon hundreds of them from the communities that I have enumerated are calling upon Parliament and specifically upon the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) to forget and reject the Forget Commission report.

SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition on a different subject. The petitioners are from Saint John, New Brunswick. They point out that in many parts of the world people are fleeing to seek safety from persecution by coming to Canada. They also point out that Canada has established standards of refugee status determination but that in fact our existing procedures have broken down under unexpected strains. They point out that the standing committee of Parliament on the subject has proposed a new procedure for refugee determination which is quicker and fairer than the one now in force. Therefore, these petitioners are calling upon Parliament to ensure that the Government and the Parliament of Canada enact legislation that will embody the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every claimant in Canada, and an adequate opportunity to arrive in Canada to make this claim.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to rise today to present a petition signed by over 800 citizens of the riding of Dauphin—Swan River who call upon Parliament to support Motion No. 37 which will allow unborn babies to be protected by the Charter of Rights.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from a variety of communities across Canada, from Moose Jaw and Regina, Province of Saskatchewan, from the City of Toronto, Province of Ontario, from Calgary, Province of Alberta, and from Shediac, Province of New Brunswick. These petitioners all ask Parliament to take action to prevent changes to the Patent Act regarding prescription drugs. The petitioners are deeply concerned that the monopoly granted to U.S. owned and operated pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic firms, will result in an increase of drug costs and prices, will push up provincial health care programs, and in many cases those who are not in those programs will be unable to afford the prescription drugs that they require. They ask the House to consider carefully their concerns and to refrain from making these changes to the Patent Act.

CUT-BACKS IN STAFF AT WEST COAST LIGHT STATIONS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present today, in conformity with Standing Order 106, a petition from almost the entire adult population of the marvellous community of Kincolith, north of Prince Rupert. They wish to bring to the attention of the House and, in particular, to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie), their concern about the directive the Minister of Transport has given to the Canadian Coast Guard to proceed with plans to eliminate the staffing of light stations at Lawyer Island, Boat Bluff, Point Island, Chrome Island, Trail Island, and Point aux Pas, and that the same Minister has also directed that there be staff reductions at Lucy Island, Putney Point, Cake Mudge, Point Atkinson and Saturna Island. They are concerned that the savings to the Coast Guard will be insignificant in comparison with the potential loss of local weather services and assistance in search and rescue to the many residents of Kincolith who transit those northern waters up into the Alaskan Panhandle down to Prince Rupert and on down the coast. They call upon this House to revoke the directive and to request a full public inquiry into the need for staffed light stations on the entire West Coast of British Columbia.

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST CORPORATE PLAN

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Pursuant to Standing Order 106, Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to these petitions.

Whereas the new Canada Post corporate plan to install permanent super mail boxes in both urban and rural areas