

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: Mr. Crawford 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.

* * *

[English]

PETITIONS

EDUCATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, I have 19 petitions signed by people from the province of Ontario and from as far as the western and eastern parts of this country. These people want to establish Canada-wide standardized tests for students.

The people who have volunteered to gather these signatures were directed by Mrs. Cynthia Bled, an Ottawa Board of Education trustee. I want to thank them for all the work they have done.

The petitioners are concerned, as are many of us, with the fact that Canadian youth are leaving schools too quickly, that some 30 per cent do not finish secondary school and that 40 per cent of Canadians in 1993 have difficulties in reading and arithmetic.

If we want to compete in this international global economy we will have to be able to train our young people to better defend themselves and to learn and develop better skills.

These people are asking that national standards for testing in education be established across the country and I would like to endorse that.

SERIAL KILLER BOARD GAME

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present yet another series of petitions concerning the serial killer board game.

Today I am tabling 1,549 more signatures from across Canada asking the government to ban the importation of the serial killer board game.

The House will know that I have tabled to date petitions containing 46,695 signatures to ban this prod-

Routine Proceedings

uct. This is in addition to those tabled by many other members thus far.

I want to thank all Canadians and all members of Parliament who have helped in this exercise and who continue to do so. I continue to encourage Canadians to solicit signatures to ban the importation of this product into Canada.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The people of my area of Okanagan Falls, Penticton, Kaleden, Oliver, Osoyoos, Greenwood, Grand Forks, Keremeos and Summerland are concerned about the affordability of telecommunications with the entry of Unitel and with the passage of the recent bill by the government.

The petitioners urge the government to consult with all affected parties, especially the rural residents who are at risk of having substantially increased costs for local telephone calls. That has already occurred in the province of British Columbia.

They urge the government to hold local hearings in the rural communities before deciding the fate of Canada's telephone system and pay attention to the direction given by the local people.

EDUCATION

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Madam Speaker, I rise to present a petition certified by the clerk. The 25 petitioners are concerned that the \$55 billion we spend on education and training be spent properly.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to co-operate with the provinces and to establish a Canada-wide standardized test for students.

• (1020)

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, like the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception and the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier I have a petition signed by numerous residents of Ottawa. They are also concerned about the expense governments in Canada incur in support of education.

They call upon the Parliament of Canada, in co-operation with the provinces, to establish standardized testing for students across our country so we can get better value for our education dollar.