

Recently higher levels of government have been accused of passing on the burden of fiscal restraint to lower levels. It is nice to see the situation changed in this instance. Now if only the federal government would take the same attitude toward such things as maintaining funding for health care, another source of intergovernmental dispute might disappear, or if it cannot, allow provinces some flexibility.

One small comment in the minister's announcement does however cause me a bit of concern and that is his comment that the federal government expects to face severe fiscal constraints in its 1995 budget.

I wonder if this is the same minister who has been assuring this House and the Canadian public for months now that the government will meet its budget targets, it will reduce the deficit to 3 per cent of GDP, and it will create jobs for everyone, and yes everything is coming up roses. Has he looked at the interest rates lately?

I look forward to hearing just what kind of fiscal constraints the minister expects so the Canadian taxpayer can have an idea of what to expect as well.

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[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Richard Bélisle (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In addition to its annual report and the special reports provided for in section 8(1), the Auditor General should be allowed to present to the House up to three additional reports a year. We also recommend that the Auditor General send a detailed advance notice to the Speaker of the House. The additional report would be submitted to the Speaker of the House on the 30th day following the advance notice.

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[English]

AUDITOR GENERAL ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-255, an act to amend the Auditor General Act (approval of appropriations for the office of the Auditor General and an audit of the office of the Auditor General).

He said: Mr. Speaker, this bill provides that the public accounts committee of the House of Commons would be responsible in future for examining the annual estimates provided by the office of the Auditor General, and where the committee approves the estimates the chairman of the committee will

Routine Proceedings

transmit them to the President of the Treasury Board who will lay them in front of the House of Commons as government business.

This bill also provides that the public accounts committee will be responsible for appointing a qualified auditor to examine the operations of the office of the Auditor General every five years.

This bill is very interesting. It gives this House a say. It gives this House credibility. It will give Canadians accountability.

• (1530)

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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PETITIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Ovid L. Jackson (Bruce—Grey): Mr. Speaker, the right to petition is one of the oldest rights of Canadians. On behalf of my constituents I table a petition asking the Minister of Justice not to go ahead with the same sex rights with regard to the human rights bill.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to present this petition on behalf of my constituents in Crowfoot.

The petitioners believe that if section 241 of the Criminal Code were struck down or amended, the protection of the most vulnerable members of society would no longer exist and the disabled, the terminally ill, the depressed, the chronically ill and the elderly would feel an implied pressure to end their lives.

They are therefore asking that Parliament not repeal or amend section 241 in any way and to uphold the Supreme Court of Canada's decision of September 30, 1993 to disallow assisted suicide.

KILLER CARDS

Ms. Jean Augustine (Etobicoke—Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I present this petition on behalf of a number of constituents in my riding. They are asking that we amend the laws of Canada.

They petition the House of Commons and Parliament assembled to amend the laws of Canada to prohibit the importation, distribution, sale and manufacture of killer cards in law and to advise producers of killer cards that their product if destined for Canada will be seized and destroyed.

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to present two petitions today, both of which I would like to say that I personally support.