

Petitions

languages its second report to the House, to which, pursuant to Standing Order 99(2), the committee requests a comprehensive response.

In accordance with its mandate under Standing Order 96(2), the Standing Committee on Research, Science and Technology conducted an examination of the Study Team Report to the Task Force on Program Review entitled *Major Surveys*. The committee invited witnesses, each with demonstrated expertise in one or more of the natural resources—environment surveys, to comment on the *Major Surveys* report. The committee framed its analysis of the report around the three principle issues identified by the study team: (a) The creation of a single federal ministry for surveys; (b) The separation of research from data collection; and (c) The possible savings to be achieved by the federal Government if all of the study team's recommendations are adopted.

Following the hearings and after consideration of the testimony the committee reached a number of conclusions and from them formulated recommendations to address each of the three principal issues. With regard to the question of the creation of a single federal ministry for surveys, the committee concluded that while the appointment of a senior Minister to head a department of surveys has symbolic value, a drastic restructuring of the major surveys system does not seem warranted. The committee therefore recommends that the federal Government not accept the study team's proposal to create a surveys ministry but instead create a national survey council with a five year mandate to examine Canada's national surveys in depth.

The committee has further concluded it would not be advisable to separate research from surveys since in many instances it is the research scientist who actually performs the survey or is an integral part of the activity. Concerning the possible savings engendered by the implementation of the study team's recommendations, the committee feels the study team had insufficient time to elicit the necessary details to substantiate the savings figures presented. The proposed national survey council should be charged with collecting the detailed information which is currently lacking, and this should be done before any changes to the present system are considered.

* * *

PETITION

CANADA POST—POSTAL SERVICES

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present petitions today signed by another 478 residents of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell. These are in addition to the 2,445 who have signed similar petitions in the past, for a grand total of 2,923. All of these constituents of mine want Canada Post to restore full postal service and not proceed with cut-backs and closure of

1700 post offices, and the privatization of 3,521 other post offices. They also want abandonment of the supermailbox plan. I am sure they do not want gun-toting mailmen either. These people are residents of Hawkesbury, Saint-Eugène, Ste. Anne de Prescott, Bainsville, Plantagenet, Alexandria, Dalkeith, Chute À Blondeau, Alfred, Sarsfield, Embrum, and St. Albert in the great constituency of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions concerning changes to the Patent Act. These changes will increase the price of drugs, increase the burden on provincial health care schemes, and be a real hardship for low income families across the country. The petitioners are from Massey, Ontario, areas along the north shore of Lake Huron, as well as a number of other communities throughout Manitoulin Island, including Mindemoy, Tehkummah and Kagawong.

* * *

JUDGES ACT, FEDERAL COURT ACT, TAX COURT OF CANADA ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Harvie Andre (for the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-41, an Act entitled an Act to Amend the Judges Act, the Federal Court Act and the Tax Court of Canada Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Minister shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

* * *

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

SUBSTITUTION OF NON-VOTABLE MOTIONS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, there are two motions which have been discussed among the Parties and I think you will find there is a disposition to put them to the House and have them passed. The first one is as follows:

● (1220)

That, notwithstanding the special order relating to Private Members' Business adopted on December 18, 1986, and pursuant to the third report of the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure presented to the House on February 12, 1987;