Petitions

They point out that to establish a fair market value there must be a willing seller and a willing buyer operating in a position of equality. In Yellowknife there is virtually a zero vacancy rate. The majority of housing in the rental market is controlled by employers. There is really no viable, fair market existing in that community.

The petitioners are calling upon Parliament to treat Yellowknife the same as the remainder of the Northwest Territories for the purposes of the tax treatment of housing benefits, or in prescribed areas.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to present two petitions containing 58 signatures, which call upon Parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child from conception and at all stages of development, the exception being the extremely rare situation in which an abortion is performed in order to save the life of the mother.

CUT IN FUNDS FOR CHALLENGE '88 PROGRAM

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today. They bring to the attention of the House the serious concerns of people in greater Montreal.

The petition speaks for itself. It states that a 40 per cent cut in the budget of the Challenge '88 program in the Montreal region has a negative impact which goes beyond mere numbers of unemployed students and disappointed community organizers and organizations. It is a well known fact that almost the totality of cultural communities, visible or otherwise, live in this area. The increase in available grants to other Québec regions can therefore bring cultural communities very little comfort. They are thus being discriminated against in a way that is unacceptable from a Government wishing to appear committed to a multicultural policy.

Therefore, they call upon Parliament and the Government in particular to reconsider this ill-conceived cut in funds available to the aforementioned groups who are found in all parts of Montreal, and Ville St. Laurent, Dollard des Ormeaux, Laval, Côte St. Luc, Beaconsfield, Town of Mount Royal, Brossard and Saint-Léonard. I hope the Government will take their plea into consideration.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY SAFETY DEVICES IN AUTOMOBILES

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, today I again have the privilege of tabling two petitions signed by residents of Rouyn-Noranda, sent to me by the Regional Health and Social Services Council of Abitibi—Témiscamingue.

Mr. Speaker, our highway safety campaign continues, because the undersigned are aware of the fact that since 1974, federal motor vehicle safety regulations allow the installation

of airbags by drivers of private vehicles, and they believe that these devices would greatly reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries.

Wherefore the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to make the installation of airbags on the front seat and the installation of adjustable shoulder-seat belts for rear seat passengers compulsory.

This campaign is wearing me out, Mr. Speaker!

• (1220

[English]

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to present three petitions today. The first petition is signed by approximately 25 residents of Balmertown and Red Lake areas. The second petition is signed by approximately 50 residents of those same areas.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child, except in those cases where an abortion is necessary to protect the life of the mother.

NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCES

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the third petition is signed by approximately 75 residents of Kenora, Keewatin and surrounding areas. They call upon Parliament to designate all communities in tier three ridings as eligible for the northern residents tax allowance.

IMMIGRATION—SPONSORING OF RELATIVES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present two petitions from residents of Spadina and nearby constituencies.

The first petition concerns immigration. It points out that the Government has promised to admit as members of the family class for immigration purposes unmarried sons and daughters of all ages. Two years ago, through the then Minister of Justice, the Government also promised to remove the unfair distinction between Canadian citizens and residents of three years' standing in regard to their rights to sponsor parents of any age.

Therefore, they call upon Parliament to ensure that the Government will fulfil its promises now.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from people who are concerned that the Conservative Government, without a mandate from the people, has undertaken to negotiate a trade deal with the United States which, in the opinion of these petitioners, threatens Canadian sovereignty. In particular, it would reduce the ability of the Government to develop the regions of Canada and to develop