

Routine Proceedings

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): On another matter unrelated to the previous petitions, a large number of petitioners from Kamloops are concerned about the rumours they hear that the government plans to freeze RCMP funding on an ongoing basis. They want to ensure that law and order is upheld. They are asking the federal government to ensure that the RCMP is adequately funded.

VIOLENT CRIME

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition from a number of people, primarily in the Windsor, Ontario, area. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass legislation establishing mandatory minimum sentences for all violent crimes which would apply uniformly to all regions of Canada.

This petition has been duly certified by the Clerk of the House.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my petition is from a number of British Columbians living in rural areas who are urging the Minister of Communications to oppose Unitel's bid to compete with Canada's telephone companies in long distance service. They are urging the minister to consult with rural communities and those people who live there as to the effects of that kind of deregulation, and they are asking the minister to hold hearings in their communities regarding that matter.

HOUSING

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from over a hundred residents of Thunder Bay who are asking the government to reduce the down payment on homes from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, which was done yesterday, and stating that they continue to support the policies of Canada Mortgage and Housing.

TAXATION

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present some petitions from my riding. The petitions are from constituents who continue to urge this government to reconsider its approach to tax reform in this country. Having gone through the Christ-

mas season where the GST has just caused disaster after disaster for small and medium-size businessmen, we now have proof positive that it is not working. They are humbly asking this House to cancel the GST.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 127, 144, 178, 180, 181, 184, 186, 190 and 201.

[Text]

Question No. 127—**Mr. Waddell:**

Since July 1, 1990, were there any (a) meetings (b) telephone conversations (c) other communications between the PMO, PCO and FPRO and the Business Council on National Issues on the subject of the Constitution and, if so, (i) what were the dates of these contacts (ii) who took part in the meetings (iii) was there an exchange of documents and, if so, what were they?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Insofar as the Prime Minister's Office, The Privy Council Office and the Federal-Provincial Office are concerned:

As part of its broad strategy of consultation on unity issues outlined in the May 13, 1991 Speech from the Throne, the government has developed a program of ongoing consultations with provincial government and non-governmental organizations. In this context, between July 1 and September 30, 1991, officials involved in the unity process consulted extensively with a wide range of non-governmental groups, such as volunteer organizations; academia; aboriginal groups such as the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and the Assembly of First Nations; business organizations including the Business Council on National Issues, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; and labour organizations, such as the Canadian Labour Congress.

The objective of the consultations with non-governmental groups was to obtain their views on key constitutional issues. In this regard, governmental officials received a variety of speeches and position papers from organizations such as the BCNI and held general discussions with them.