

*Committee Reports*

about tax reform and that the Minister of Finance show whose side he is on.

I suggest the Finance Minister could show that by withdrawing the \$500 million tax exemption on capital gains and by stopping up corporate loopholes which create an unjust situation across the country. On average, 80,000 companies pay no tax in each fiscal year despite the fact that they are in a profitable position.

● (1250)

Rather than the Finance Minister talking about endless consultations with the provinces and his colleagues, perhaps he should cut through the Gordian knot that is keeping the Government of Canada from taking the first real steps toward a universal program of day care across Canada. My leader has made a proposal and the Hon. Member for Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell) has brought forward a concrete plan for the inauguration of a national day care plan with expenditures of \$320 million. That is enough to start to respond to constituents in my riding and across this country, by saying that it is about time we saw this as a national priority and not as something that just belongs to the provinces. It is about time we ensured that men and women who are parents of small children genuinely have access to quality and affordable day care in every part of Canada.

These are things we will be looking for in the Budget. I call on the Minister of Finance not to use this deferral of his announcement on tax reform as a means of preventing tax reform from coming in soon. Canadians need it now.

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[Translation]

**MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERS SERVICES****PRESENTATION OF FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the First Report of the Standing Committee on Management and Members Services.

[English]

If the House gives its consent, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we have had the usual consultations, I intend to move concurrence in this report later this day.

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**PETITIONS****REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the duty to present to the House five

petitions from the Province of Alberta, from people who submit that the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information, that the tariff has had little effect on the publishing industry of the United States, yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book-sellers, distributors and Canada's culture, and that rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations.

**OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have other petitions dealing with another matter signed by dozens of constituents. They are in order pursuant to Standing Order 106. These petitioners humbly submit that the proposed changes to the Patent Act, which directly affects all Canadians who are not protected by private and Government medicare programs, will raise the costs, already high, of the provincial health care programs. They go on to say that the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and will result in an increase in drug prices, that costs will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs, and that the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Governments concession in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of every Canadian. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I have petitions to present pursuant to Standing Order 106. The first one is from residents of my riding of Thunder Bay—Nipigon who protest the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs which they feel will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They feel that the proposed measures will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on a continuing basis and will result also in higher costs to provincial Government drug plans. They call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

**JAPANESE CANADIANS—COMPENSATION**

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from residents of Regina and Saskatoon in the Province of Saskatchewan and from residents of Alberta who assert that the National Association of Japanese Canadians is the only elected national organization of Japanese