

*Routine Proceedings*

The petitioners urge the Government of Canada to intervene immediately in the decade old national ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka with the view to: first, bring about an unconditional ceasefire, preferably verified by the United Nations; second, to bring the parties in the conflict to the negotiating table, preferably with United Nations mediation so that matters under dispute could be resolved satisfactorily and lasting peace achieved; and, third, to suspend forthwith all foreign aid and, if necessary, impose sanctions until cessation of hostilities and human rights violations.

## YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the second petition is with regard to the Young Offenders Act.

It calls on Parliament to amend the act: first, to lower the age limits which define a young offender to include only those children between the ages of 10 and 15; second, to increase the maximum penalty for first and second degree murder from 5 to 10 years, which has already been done by the government; and, third, to allow the publication of a young offender's name after a second serious offence, and any other changes necessary to ensure that the public interest as well as the needs of Canadian youth are addressed in a fair and balanced fashion.

## HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

**Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present three petitions today.

The first group of petitioners request that the Government of Canada not amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include the phrase sexual orientation. The petitioners are troubled about not defining the phrase sexual orientation. They have a legitimate concern that such a broad term could include all kinds of sexual behaviour.

• (1530)

## GUN CONTROL

**Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the second petition deals with the subject of Bill C-68, gun control. The petitioners state that the target for all gun control laws in the Criminal Code of Canada must be the criminals who are a danger to the public safety and not law-abiding, responsible firearm owners.

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.):** The third petition is very appropriate. It deals with budget '95.

It is quite timely. It was collected by small businessmen from my riding including Mr. Brent Stief, Mrs. Neillie Murray, Mr. Phil Walker, Mr. Arch Brown and Mr. Bill Schwartz.

The petitioners request that with Canadians already overburdened with taxation due to high government spending Parlia-

ment reduce government spending instead of increasing taxes and I wholeheartedly agree with all three petitions.

## GUN CONTROL

**Mr. John O'Reilly (Victoria—Haliburton, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and present three petitions today signed by people from West Guilford, Haliburton, Eagle Lake, Minden, Wilberforce and Tory Hill in the riding of Victoria—Haliburton.

They draw the attention of the House of Commons to gun control and ask Parliament not to pass any law that would prohibit the legitimate use of firearms.

A further petition concerns gun control and supports the present legislation before the House.

## ASSISTED SUICIDE

**Mr. Rey D. Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present petitions on behalf of my constituents and the immediate neighbourhood of Winnipeg North.

The petitioners are concerned about physician assisted suicide and euthanasia, concerns that I share. They are concerned about the negative impact of such a move on families as well as loss of respect for human life and far reaching negative implications in society.

They therefore pray that Parliament continue to reject euthanasia and physician assisted suicide; that it continue to enforce section 241 of the Criminal Code prohibiting the commission of assisting suicide; and that it consider expanding palliative care accessible to all dying persons knowing that such care is compassionate and therefore will result in the relief of pain and suffering without the danger concomitant with assisted suicide.

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**Mrs. Diane Ablonczy (Calgary North, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague from Fraser Valley East in presenting a petition from nearly 1,000 people in my riding of Calgary North requesting that Parliament reduce government spending instead of increasing taxes and also that Parliament implement a taxpayer protection act to limit federal spending.

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, I have a brief point of order with respect to the presentation of petitions. I have noticed that a practice seems to have grown in the House of members' indicating their concurrence with particular petitions.

This is a matter of debate. I wonder whether the Speaker might provide some guidance to the House on this matter because the practice has been growing.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member raises a very valid point. As a general statement the Chair would not encourage whether a member concurs with the presentation of a specific petition brought to the floor.