

Petitions

national objectives and appropriate mechanisms for the development of a comprehensive non-profit child care system accessible to all families throughout Canada, and whereas the child care Act proposed by the Government contains neither national objectives nor the necessary funding arrangements and will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care, therefore, in the best interests of young children, women and families, the petitioners request very strongly that Parliament withdraw the child care Act forthwith.

• (1110)

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 106 to present a petition similar to the one just presented.

It is signed by several persons from southwestern Ontario who find the Government's Bill on child care to be woefully lacking in national standards. Finally, they state that since the proposed child care Act is not in the best interests of young children, women or families in Canada they call upon the Government to withdraw the Bill immediately.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition concerning the issue of child care. People who have signed the petition indicate their concern that families throughout Canada need high quality, available, affordable child care services. They believe that the legislation which is before the House of Commons at the present time does not provide that.

They state that the legislation contains neither national objectives nor necessary funding arrangements, that it will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care, and therefore the interests of young children, women and families of Canada will not be met. The petitioners humbly call upon Parliament to withdraw the child care legislation forthwith.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present three petitions. The first is signed by residents of the City of Winnipeg, and the Towns of Fort Whyte, Oak Bluff and Sanford, towns in Manitoba. The second one is signed by residents of Winnipeg and the Town of Kamerno. The third is signed by residents of Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The three petitions state that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised that in the course of his bilateral trade negotiations Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised and that the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the U.S.

Therefore the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

CHILD CARE—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BILL

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by residents of Ontario who live in Sault Ste. Marie, Gravenhurst, Huntsville and Dundas. They state that whereas it has been repeatedly recommended that to make child care services available for families the Government of Canada must introduce legislation containing national objectives and appropriate mechanisms for the development of comprehensive non-profit child care system accessible to all families throughout Canada, therefore the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to withdraw the child care Act forthwith.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to present a petition on behalf of a number of my constituents pursuant to Standing Order 106.

The petitioners feel that the child care Act proposed by the Government contains neither national objectives nor the necessary funding arrangements and will not ensure that families have access to high quality child care. Since they believe that the child care Act is not in the best interests of young children, women or families, they are asking that the Government withdraw the child care Act immediately from further consideration.

REFUGEES—REQUEST FOR SPEEDY PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I also have the opportunity and privilege to present a further petition on behalf of a number of other constituents who are concerned that the existing procedures regarding the processing of refugees has broken down. Basically, they are asking Parliament to move quickly to ensure that refugee applicants have their applications processed efficiently and effectively.

EQUALITY OF CHOICE IN CHILD CARE

Mr. Paul Gagnon (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, it is also my pleasure and privilege to present a petition signed by 47 Canadians, residents mainly of the Olds area and of Calgary, Alberta.

The petitioners oppose the initiatives of child care. They point out that a considerable number of Canadians believe that the state and their tax dollars have no place in the area of child care which is a parental responsibility, except in cases of demonstrated financial need.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to act upon the problem of this limitation in choice of child care and restore to the system fairness and justice by opposing any form of national child care policy which does not provide equality of choice, therefore leaving the child care decision-making process with the parent, where it rightly belongs.