

PETITIONS

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.): Madam Speaker, today I have two petitions to present on behalf of the constituents of Simcoe Centre.

The first petition concerns section 745 of the Criminal Code. The petitioners request that Parliament repeal section 745 of the Criminal Code so that convicted murderers have to serve their full 25-year sentence behind bars.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the second group of petitioners request that the Government of Canada not amend the human rights act to include the phrase of sexual orientation.

The petitioners are concerned about including the undefined phrase of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act. Refusing to define this statement leaves interpretation open to the courts, a very dangerous precedent to set.

Parliament has a responsibility to Canadians to ensure that legislation cannot be misinterpreted.

• (1510)

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas, Lib.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to present a petition which is signed by a number of residents of my riding of Stormont—Dundas.

The petitioners call on Parliament to ensure that approximately 70 Cornwall jobs at the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority headquarters remain in Cornwall. They also emphasize that the city of Cornwall cannot afford any more economic losses of jobs in an already depressed area which has been hard hit by the closure of several industries.

Many other petitions were circulated locally. While not in the proper form for this House, they still request that the same consideration be given and that Parliament recognize the historical link between the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority and the city of Cornwall by keeping the head office and those jobs in the seaway city.

INCOME TAX

Mr. Paul Szabo (Mississauga South, Lib.): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I wish to present a petition which has been circulating all across Canada. The petition has been signed by a number of Canadians from Cambridge, Ontario.

The petitioners would like to draw to the attention of the House that managing the family home and caring for preschool children is an honourable profession which has not been recognized for its value to our society.

Supply

They also state that the Income Tax Act discriminates against families that make the choice to provide care in the home to preschool children, the disabled, the chronically ill or the aged.

The petitioners therefore pray and call on Parliament to pursue initiatives to eliminate tax discrimination against families that decide to provide care in the home for preschool children, the disabled, the chronically ill or the aged.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu): Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY—RIGHTS OF VICTIMS

Mr. Garry Breitkreuz (Yorkton—Melville, Ref.) moved:

That this House condemn the government for failing to make progress in reforming the criminal justice system in terms of introducing measures to ensure that the rights of the victim are protected and that these rights supersede the rights of the criminal and in terms of changing the name of the week of November 19 to 26 from Prisoners' Week to Victims' Rights Week.

He said: Madam Speaker, I will be dividing my time. It is an honour and a privilege to lead off the debate on this Reform motion.

On March 17, 1994 I had the pleasure of participating in our first debate in the House on victims' rights. The example I will use comes from my home province of Saskatchewan. It illustrates the government's preoccupation with criminals' rights rather than victims' rights. It is the case of Gregory Fischer, a convicted cop killer. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with no chance of parole for 25 years.