

Petitions

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, as the hon. gentleman can judge, there are a number of Members of Parliament in the House, from Halifax, Ottawa and other places, and now Victoria—

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): And Esquimalt.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):—and Esquimalt, where this kind of thing is happening. If the Hon. Members of the House of Commons who have this kind of case could bring these cases to the Minister's attention, would he look into them? The fact is that it may well be that the Minister is being misdirected by his staff.

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I hope it is not the case as he suggested that I am being misdirected by my staff, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that I will inquire about it because I am very concerned, if it is indeed the truth.

Mr. Nielsen: It is.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, April 28, 1983, and finds that the petitions meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

Madam Speaker: Presenting reports from Standing and Special Committees—

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order arising from a statement made by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin). I have lost him. I am sorry, Madam Speaker, but the Minister has left his seat.

Madam Speaker: If it is a point of order, I will hear it, but—

Mr. McKnight: That is all right, Madam Speaker.

PETITIONS

MR. PARKER—COAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of my constituents in Kootenay East-Revelstoke with regard to the federal involvement in the coal fields there. The Government of Canada has helped finance and develop new coal projects in northeastern British Columbia which could have serious effects on coal production in southeastern British Columbia and the production of coal in terms of markets available to British Columbia, threatening already existing jobs in communities in southeastern British Columbia. Over 2,000 people signed this petition. The undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon the House of Commons to guarantee that the presently existing coal projects in southeastern British Columbia will be permitted to supply coal to all British Columbian markets until such time as they approach their production capacity.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. MALONE—CROWSNEST PASS FREIGHT RATES

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, I am duty bound, as the Member of Parliament for Crowfoot, to table today a petition from a number of constituents, 1,277 in total, from the southeast region of my constituency, with respect to the western transport initiative by the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin). The petitioners outline six principles by which they find the proposal to be unacceptable and would ask that these principles be involved in any amending changes to the impending legislation.

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NARCOTIC CONTROL ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING THERAPEUTIC USE OF HEROIN

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-684 to amend the Narcotic Control Act (therapeutic use of heroin).

He said: Madam Speaker, the purpose of the Bill is to permit designated physicians in defined hospitals, particularly in cancer clinics, to prescribe heroin to alleviate pain and to provide against diversion of heroin for improper purposes and to permit a public debate and decision on this important question. It also responds to a favourable reply from 91 per cent of the people of Nepean-Carleton in a questionnaire on this subject.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.