

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 27, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing 36(8) I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to a substantial number of petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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WILDERNESS PROTECTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-292, an act to provide for the protection of wilderness areas and to amend the National Parks Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall the hon. member have leave to introduce the said bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Wenman: Mr. Speaker, the intent of this bill is to recognize the particular ecological value of wilderness. Current criteria is too demanding and cumbersome and further legislation needs to be developed to give full protection and preservation to smaller unique wilderness ecological treasures, treasures like the giant Sitka spruce

of the Carmanah Valley or smaller wilderness areas in proximity to and accessible to major population where such wilderness areas, particularly old growth forests, have almost become extinct.

The bill will accommodate the concept of smaller wilderness pocket parks and is modelled after legislation in Australia and the United States.

• (1110)

The legislation would allow the federal government to move quickly to establish low maintenance, wilderness parks that would be left largely undeveloped.

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

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am today tabling a petition from Chibougamau, in the riding of Roberval, Quebec, further to the recommendations of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas.

Chibougamau is undoubtedly an isolated community and for this reason, the petitioners consider the Brunelle recommendation to be discriminatory, unfair and inappropriate for the purpose of the northern tax benefits plan. It does not encourage settlement in the North and resource development there.

[*English*]

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition under Standing Order 36 in which the petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the report of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas. The petitioners are residents of my riding of Cochrane—Superior, mainly from the town of Manitouwadge in Ontario.