

members of the Marmora Village Council. The second petition is from citizens of the Denbigh area.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO BILLS C-47 AND C-48

**Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, I have here four petitions signed by Montreal residents who strongly object to Bills C-47 and C-48, and ask the Government to support Ricardo Didone's efforts to ensure the child's rights to the parent who does not have custody.

And as in duty your petitioners will ever pray.

[English]

PROPOSAL RESPECTING AUTOMATIC JOINT CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition with quite a number of names on it from both Edmonton, Alberta, and Montreal, Quebec. It is from the organization for the protection of children's rights of Canada. It proposes to implement a new law in Canada involving automatic joint custody of children unless individual circumstances warrant otherwise.

CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO DIVORCED PARENTS

**Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence):** Mr. Speaker, I am presenting a petition on behalf of a number of people from the Province of Quebec who are deeply concerned and are expressing their concern in a petition to the House. Their concern relates to the rights of children to be able to have adequate access to their parents who are divorced or separated. I present this petition to the House which calls for access for young people to their parents.

IMPACT OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEREGULATION ON ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED PEOPLE

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of presenting a petition which was gathered by Mr. William Pierce and other retired members of the International Woodworkers of America which is based in Vancouver. The petitioners say that the telephone is vital in meeting the health and communication needs of the elderly and handicapped. They pray and call upon Parliament not to deregulate the present telephone system in order to keep local call costs within people's means.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO BILLS C-47 AND C-48

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I too wish to present a petition on behalf of hundreds of residents from the Montreal area who object to Bills C-47 and C-48 because they do not improve the situation of children of separated or divorced couples, and ask the Government

### Petitions

to support Ricardo Didone's efforts to ensure the child's rights to the parent who does not have custody.

[English]

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have four petitions which protest to this House Bill C-47 and Bill C-48. They support the aims of Mr. Ricardo DiDone, which are the education of new generations in school on the responsibilities of marriage, compulsory mediation prior to divorce and so on. These four petitions represent Canadians from Cowansville, Granby, Montreal and other places in Quebec.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me several thousand names and hundreds of petitions. I do not intend to read all the names—do not get frightened, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to do that. However, as I was looking at these petitions which arrived in my office over the five or six days, I thought it would be of interest to note that there is not just one language, English, represented, or one language, French, but a multitude of languages such as Italian, Greek and Arabic. I found that so fascinating that I would like to bring to your attention that the lack of the kind of humanizing changes in our divorce Bill is creating great anguish among many parents, particularly—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** Order. I am sorry to call the Hon. Member to order but the tradition is that we present the petition, the nature of it, and then conclude.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Read the Arabic.

**Mrs. Finestone:** I wish I could. Every language is a new window on the world, Sir, and if I could read it, I would, with pleasure.

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mrs. Finestone:** As a result of that particular suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I will read the petition. We protest Bill C-47 and Bill C-48 dealing with divorce and children of divorce where two parents are forced to attack one another in order to win a child, an act that is totally inhumane and unacceptable. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to support the aims of Mr. Ricardo DiDone which are, the education of responsibility in marriage in school for new generations, to require compulsory mediation prior to divorce, to support shared parenting as a concept, to ensure the right of children to communicate with the non-custodial parent, that both parents have access to anything that is pertinent to the wellbeing of the child, and last, but not least, if not respected with valuable reason that custody may be reversed when it goes back to the court.

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions here, the first from a group of residents of Shefford, Quebec, and the second from a group of residents of the Montreal, LaSalle area. The petitioners now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present their petition to protest Bill C-47 and Bill C-48 dealing with divorce and