

Routine Proceedings

• (1550)

VIA RAIL

Therefore, the petitioners are calling for a comprehensive, independent and public inquiry into uranium mining in Saskatchewan and in northern Canada in general.

As well, the petitioners feel that there needs to be an immediate EARP panel convened in order to look into the new mine at Eagle Point next to the Wollaston Lake mine.

DYING WITH DIGNITY

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the pleasure of presenting two petitions.

The first one states that since 1981, Canada's Dying with Dignity Association has been expanding and reflecting the concerns of Canadians for more widespread understanding of euthanasia.

It goes on to point out that many thousands of Canadians are kept in existence in conditions totally lacking in human dignity and with no resources for relief. The petitioners call upon Parliament to acknowledge openly the urgent need for changes to address the present denial of human dignity among thousands of elderly and dying Canadians.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, the second petition I have is 45 pages long and contains several hundred names.

The petitioners are mainly old age pensioners living in mobile home parks who point out that the goods and services tax is being levied unfairly on their residences. They point out that the government is taxing shelter by virtue of the definition of mobile homes.

The petitioners also point out the government's failure to recognize the use to which mobile accommodation can be put and call upon the government to rescind the goods and services tax. They wish the prevention of taxing of shelter for persons residing in movable residences, including recreational vehicles, small trailers and houseboats.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise under Standing Order 36 to present yet another petition on VIA Rail.

The petition shows how widespread the support for VIA Rail is. The petitioners are from places like Winnipeg, Toronto, Kamloops, British Columbia, Fredericton, New Brunswick and various places in Manitoba, Thunder Bay and Calgary, Alberta.

These petitioners have not given up on VIA Rail. They have asked the government and Parliament to maintain VIA Rail as a present national network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present two petitions.

The first one is from a number of residents from Saskatchewan who are concerned about the cuts made by this government regarding the Public Distribution Assistance Program which is threatening the future of weekly newspapers.

The petitioners are particularly concerned that weekly newspapers have been especially hard hit. In fact, weekly newspapers are, in many cases, the sole instrument for receiving news in a local area. They call upon this government to make some changes with respect to the mailing costs for these newspapers.

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition presented to me by a number of farmers from Saskatchewan who are very concerned that this government has removed oats from the Canadian Wheat Board.

The petitioners call upon this government to replace oats under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and to give oats and barley the same protection under the Canadian Wheat Board that wheat presently has.

They further call upon this government not to remove oats or barley without this institution, Parliament, first having a debate and making a decision after a proper and open consultation with all the farmers in western Canada.