

The increase in... nuclear weapons, far from strengthening international security, on the contrary, weakens it. Enduring peace cannot be built on the accumulation of weaponry.

And that whereas the testing of weapons of war, such as the Cruise missile, contribute to the escalation of the arms race and weaken international security; therefore your petitioners humbly pray that the House of Commons will make every effort to prevent future testing of the Cruise missile in Canada.

MR. NYSTROM—SOCIAL MEASURES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of approximately 1,000 Saskatchewan residents. The petition states:

That, in the opinion of your petitioners, of Canada's senior citizens, and more specifically the members of Saskatchewan Senior Citizens "Action Now" Association favourable consideration should be given by your Honourable House to the proposals set out herein.

They mention several proposals such as federal pensions being substantially increased so that there is parity not charity for pensioners; that the basic income tax exemption be raised above the poverty level; that there be established in this country a department of senior citizens' affairs—

Mr. Speaker: Would the Hon. Member give a brief explanation of the purpose of the petition?

Mr. Nystrom: That pretty well summarizes it, Mr. Speaker, except to add that they ask as well that the original health Bill supported by federal conditional grants be reinstated. I cannot read the rest of it, but that is the general thrust of the petition on behalf of around a thousand senior citizens in Saskatchewan.

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ACT AND THE YUKON ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Serge Joyal (for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-26, an Act to amend the Northwest Territories Act and the Yukon Act.

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

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 95, 391, 456 to 459 inclusive, 498, 515, 571, 581 and 703.

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE—MEDIA RELATIONS STAFF

Question No. 95—Mr. Howie:

How many persons engaged in public relations, media relations or publicity are employed by the Department of National Health and Welfare?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Thirty-three.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PORNOGRAPHY AND PROSTITUTION

Question No. 391—Mr. Howie:

1. Did the Ministry of Justice establish a Special Committee to study the problems associated with pornography and prostitution in Canada and, if so, what (a) were the names of the non-public service members of the Committee (b) were their terms of remuneration (c) was the purpose of the Committee?

2. Will the Committee receive public presentations?

3. Will the Committee hold hearings outside Ottawa and, if so, at how many locations?

4. What is the estimated total cost of the Committee's operation?

5. Within what time frame is the committee expected to complete its work?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): 1. Yes.

(a) Paul Fraser, Joan Wallace, Mary Eberts, Andrée Ruffo, John McLaren, Susan Clark.

(b) The Chairman is to be paid \$500 per day. Other Committee members are to be paid \$300 per day, subject to a maximum of 60 days.

(c) The terms of reference of the Special Committee are as follows:

(1) to consider the problems of access to pornography, its effects and what is considered to be pornographic in Canada;

(2) to consider prostitution in Canada with particular reference to loitering and street soliciting for prostitution, the operation of bawdy-houses, living off the avails of prostitution, and the exploitation of prostitutes and the law relating to these matters;

(3) to ascertain public views on ways and means to deal with these problems by inviting written submissions from concerned groups and citizens and by conducting public meetings in major centres across the country;

(4) to consider, without travelling outside Canada, the experience and attempts to deal with these problems in other countries including the United States, European Economic Council and selected Commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand;

(5) to consider alternatives, report its findings and recommend solutions to the problems associated with pornography and prostitution in Canada, as soon as possible, but not later than December 31, 1984.

2. Yes. The Committee welcomes written and oral submissions from the public.

3. Yes. Other than the national capital region, the Committee was scheduled to appear in 20 locations across Canada and has already appeared in some locations: Calgary, Edmonton,