

reference of Friday, May 27, 1988, your legislative committee has examined Bill C-126 and agreed to report, without amendments, Mr. Speaker, and of course a copy of the proceedings and testimony relating to this Bill is tabled and respectfully submitted.

● (1210)

[English]

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS—SIXTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the sixth report, in both official languages, of the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

The report deals with the “loony” coin and its application. Briefly, we recommend that the Government of Canada and the Royal Mint speed up the use of the coin by the withdrawal of the Canadian dollar bill.

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PETITIONS

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions from constituents of mine living in Surrey—White Rock—North Delta, as well as people living in Vancouver, Langley, and points throughout the Fraser Valley.

They state that whereas the distinguished Justices of the Supreme Court of Canada, in striking down Section 251 of the Criminal Code of Canada, have left Canadians without any law restricting abortions; and whereas nothing in the Supreme Court decision has established abortion as a right; and whereas all human life is a continuum from the moment of conception to the moment of death, there is no point in time between conception and the birth of the infant at which point we can say that this is not a human life; wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, ever pray and call upon Parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child from conception, and at all stages of development, with the exception of the extremely rare situation in which an abortion is performed in order to save the life of the mother.

I have a second petition similar to the first. The wording is slightly different. It states that whereas on January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the abortion law and Parliament has now the duty to pass new legislation; and whereas the unborn citizens of Canada are now devoid of any legislation protecting their basic right to life; wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass immediately legislation that will protect the unborn child from the moment of conception.

[Translation]

Mrs. Claudy Mailly (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, today I wish to present a petition with about 900 signatures, most of which designate the names of people in my riding. There are some from Hull and some from Ottawa as well. This is a petition that was circulated by the movement *Coalition pour la vie*, and it states the following concerns: It says that the unborn child is a human being, that consequently it has a right to life and to the protection of that life, that the Supreme Court of Canada, in ruling that the federal legislation on abortion is unconstitutional, has left the unborn child without legal protection, and that the Supreme Court has nevertheless indicated that Parliament has the authority to pass legislation to protect the life of the unborn child.

I am therefore tabling these petitions on behalf of the undersigned to express their concerns regarding the vacuum left by the Supreme Court's decision.

[English]

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present two petitions today. The first is similar to the petitions that I have been presenting every day since January 1. It is signed by a number of constituents who represent the communities of Salmon Arm, Pritchard, Vernon and Kamloops, British Columbia. They are concerned that the present federal Government has no mandate from the people of Canada by which to conclude a trade deal. They believe that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) compromised Canadian sovereignty when he negotiated this deal.

They believe that the negotiated deal threatens the very fabric of our political and economic sovereignty, since it removes the power of the federal Government to control effectively foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, as well as to equalize opportunities between the regions of Canada.

I could go on and on. It is quite a lengthy petition. But I will not go on.

The basic thrust of the petition is that the petitioners think that Canada got a bad deal. They are asking Parliament to dissolve now to enable the people of Canada to have an opportunity to accept or reject the proposed trade deal during a national general election.

HOUSING TAX ALLOWANCE IN YELLOWKNIFE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from the residents of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, which points out that when Bill C-23 was passed, back in December of 1986, it substantially changed the rules relating to tax treatment on housing. The petitioners state that Yellowknife was designated as having a developed rental market and housing benefits that were valued at the fair market value.