

petitions signed by residents of Burnaby, Vancouver, Surrey, Ottawa, and Toronto.

The petition states as follows: The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right as to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your Hon. House will therefore provide a remedy humbly sheweth: Whereas the distinguished Justices of the Supreme Court of Canada in striking down Section 251 of the Criminal Code have left Canadians without any law restricting abortions; whereas nothing in the Supreme Court decision has established abortion as a right; whereas human life is a continuum from the moment of conception to the moment of death, and there is no point in time between conception and the birth of the infant at which point we could say that this is not a human life.

Wherefore, the undersigned petitioners ever pray and call upon Parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of an 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.

As duty bound the petitioners will ever pray.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING ISRAEL

Mr. Peter Peterson (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions to present today. The first petition is the last in a series of petitions I received from members of the Hamilton Jewish Federation who continue to take issue with remarks made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding charges that he has made with respect to the State of Israel's handling of matters on the riotous Gaza strip.

CALL FOR RESEARCH INTO PREVENTION AND CURE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

Mr. Peter Peterson (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, the other two petitions have been signed by residents of my constituency in the City of Hamilton and the surrounding area. They wish to point out to the House the seriousness of schizophrenia in Canada. The petitioners point out that a number of people have this illness, and its cost to Governments in terms of social costs. The petitioners would like to petition the Government to have it increase the research funds available to combat this dreaded disease.

BLOCK AVERAGING OF INCOME

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the requirements of Standing Order 106, I have two petitions to present. The petitions are signed by residents of Kelliher, Leross, Lestock; Saskatchewan who call upon Parliament to take the necessary steps to retain block averaging for farmers and fishermen, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in its report on the White Paper on tax reform, stage one.

Petitions

IMMIGRATION—SPONSORING OF RELATIVES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and pleasure to present two petitions from residents of the City of Toronto, which have been certified by the Clerk as to form and content.

The first petition points out that in 1987 the then Minister of Immigration promised that unmarried sons and daughters of all ages would be considered as members of the family class of immigrants, and that married children and brothers and sisters in the assisted relative class would get 15 points instead of 10 points when assessed for immigration to Canada.

In 1986, the then Minister of Justice promised that the unfair distinction between Canadian citizens and permanent residents of three years or more would be eliminated in order that both groups would have equal rights to sponsor parents of any age.

The petitioners point out that none of these promises has yet been fulfilled by those Ministers, their successors, or the Government.

Therefore, the petitioners ask that the House of Commons ensure that the Government now fulfil these promises.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the other petition concerns the trade deal negotiated by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States, for which the petitioners state that the Prime Minister had no mandate. The petitioners point out that it will reduce Canada's ability to plan economic, social, and cultural programs that Canadians need, and would integrate Canada further into the North American defence industrial base.

Therefore, the petitioners ask Parliament to ensure that there will be a national debate on the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal, and that this debate will result in a national general election before the agreement is finalized.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Lorne McCuish (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and responsibility to file with the Table two petitions, both of which have been certified correct as to form and content by the Clerk of Petitions.

The first petition is signed by some 1,300 residents of Prince George. The second petition is signed by 42 residents of Vanderhoof, both communities in the riding of Prince George—Bulkley Valley.

Both petitions humbly pray and call upon Parliament to grant protection to unborn human beings from the moment of conception, and I proudly support this concept.

NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCES

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I have the privilege to present