

*Petitions*

● (1520)

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by the residents of the communities of New Westminster, Nanaimo, Vancouver. I am looking for one from Rosemond, Alberta, but there does not seem to be one here. Certainly communities such as Richmond and Delta are represented, and so is North Vancouver once again. There are very large populations and areas which are dependent upon the ocean and marine activities for their way of life. They have addressed their petition to the honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will provide a remedy, humbly sheweth that thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in industrial benefits are not accruing to Canadians because we lack a coherent and effective marine industrial strategy and that the federal Government has neglected to implement a coherent Canadian marine policy although it promised to do so. Canada's economic growth and wellbeing is in jeopardy because of the Government's inaction.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament that the Government be encouraged immediately to implement a sensible, effective, direct marine industrial policy that will result in the creation of a Canadian merchant marine and the expansion of Canadian shipbuilding and allied industries. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

This is an expression of very serious concern from the residents of Langley, British Columbia, Richmond, Vancouver, Surrey, Delta and New Westminster.

## MR. SKELLY—APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN TO THE BENCH

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to introduce another petition. This is an expression of concern by many residents of Ontario. They have addressed their petition to the Honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Province of Ontario, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that only 3.7 per cent of judicial appointments in the past year were awarded to women, that recent judicial decisions such as the *Leatherdale* and *Brown* point to a desperate need for a more balanced perspective on the bench. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to get cracking and to guarantee that all subsequent federal judicial appointments adhere strictly to the affirmative action program whereby as vacancies on the bench develop women and men will be appointed on an alternating basis. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray. This is a very serious expression of concern that Parliament should address very quickly.

## MR. SKELLY—CALL FOR ABOLITION OF SENATE

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to introduce to the House the concerns of a number of residents of the Province of Ontario in the city of Ottawa. This petition is addressed to the honourable House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Province of Ontario, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that the Senate has become a retirement haven for political appointees and that the salary paid to Senators is in all probability less than—I cannot make out this word here, but at a time when the old age pensions are limited to six and five, the petition does express some concern about the salary paid to Senators.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to abolish the Senate. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

This is the sincere expression of concern of many residents of the Province of Ontario, and undoubtedly in most Provinces of Canada, and I suspect it would be the majority.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich)):** The Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) on a point of order.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago one of the Members raised the point of how you pronounce "sheweth". As an old, old schoolteacher, and after having verified by the *Oxford Dictionary* I can say that the proper pronunciation is *showeth*.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich)):** It is hardly a point of order, and the Hon. Member for Bow River is not as old as he pretends.

The Hon. Member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Cosgrove) on a point of order.

**Mr. Cosgrove:** Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as I have the honour of serving as the joint chairman for the Joint Committee on Senate Reform, I would like to have the opportunity, with your concurrence, to receive a copy of the last petition introduced. This Committee has been seeking the opinion of the public, and we have sought opinions from coast to coast, on the subject of Senate reform. We would be very pleased to have a copy to consider the thrust of whatever body of opinion there is in support of the petition last filed with the Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich)):** The Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River on a point of order.

**Mr. Skelly:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite disappointing that the Committee would continue to seek opinion when probably the solution is self-evident and the institution should have been abolished years ago.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich)):** The Hon. Member for York-Scarborough (Mr. Cosgrove) can,