

Capital Punishment

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to present to the House of Commons today on behalf of the citizens of Scarborough and other locations across Ontario and, indeed, from citizens in towns and villages right across Canada, 2,081 signatures of people who are calling upon Parliament to pass a motion for the return of capital punishment for certain acts of planned and deliberate murder and the killing of police officers and prison guards.

The signatures now total nearly 25,000 and represent the strong will of the Canadian people on this very important issue.

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga North): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present on behalf of the citizens of the City of Mississauga and, indeed, Canadians from all across the country, over 1,000 signatures of people who are calling upon this Parliament to pass a motion favouring the return of capital punishment.

The signatures now total almost 30,000 and represent the strong will of the Canadian people on this important issue.

Mr. Peter Peterson (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present on behalf of the citizens of the City of Hamilton in the Province of Ontario and Canadians from all across our country 2,015 signatures of petitioners, who are calling upon this Parliament to pass a motion favouring the return of capital punishment in Canada.

The signatures, which now total well over 30,000, represent the strong will of the Canadian people on this important issue.

CANADA POST—OPPOSITION TO CORPORATE PLAN

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present on behalf of literally hundreds of my constituents petitions calling on the Government to maintain Canada's postal service, especially in rural areas, where it is under attack and where there is great uncertainty.

• (1130)

OPPOSITION TO CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Next, I have a petition signed by several hundred of my constituents concerning the Patent Act as it relates to drugs. This petition calls on the Government to maintain the place of generic drugs in the market-place, given the adverse effect the loss of these generic pharmaceuticals would have on the price of drugs generally.

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REINSTATEMENT

The House resumed from Monday, June 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski:

That this House supports, in principle, the reinstatement of capital punishment and directs that a special committee on reinstatement, composed of 15 members, be established, hold hearings and make its final report to the House no later than three (3) months following the adoption of this motion, such report to provide recommendations on:

(a) which offence or offences should carry the death penalty, and in what circumstances;

(b) which method or methods should be used to carry out the penalty of death, and in what circumstances;

That, pursuant to Standing Order 107(1), this special committee be hereby appointed as a committee to prepare and bring in a bill no later than three months following the adoption of this motion, founded on the committee's recommendations on (a) and (b) above; such a bill shall be the object of a separate and distinct report of the special committee, and such a report shall be its final report;

That such bill, when reported from such special committee to the House, be deemed pursuant to Standing Order 107(1) to have been introduced and stand on the Order Paper, in the name of the special committee chairman, for first reading at the next sitting of the House; and that subsequent House stages of the bill be considered under "Government Orders", with the bill standing under the heading "Government Business"; and that, when the said bill has been read a second time, it shall stand referred to a Legislative Committee;

That the Striking Committee be empowered to name the Members of the special committee, provided that once the Striking Committee report is laid upon the Table, it shall be deemed concurred in;

That the special committee have the power to sit while the House is sitting and during periods when the House stands adjourned;

That the special committee be empowered to report from time to time and send for persons and papers, and to print such papers and evidence from time to time as may be ordered by the committee and to retain the services of expert, technical, professional and clerical staff;

That the special committee be empowered to adjourn from place to place inside Canada and that, when deemed necessary, the appropriate staff accompany the committee;

That a quorum of the special committee be eight (8) members for any vote, resolution or other decision; and that the chairman be authorized to hold meetings to receive evidence and authorize the printing thereof whenever six (6) members are present;

That any substitution of membership on the special committee be made pursuant to Standing Order 94(4); and