

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 14, 1995

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 24 petitions.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

FINANCE

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table the 13th report of the Finance Committee dealing with the borrowing authority.

I wish to thank members from all parties for their co-operation.

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PETITIONS

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions today. The first one calls upon Parliament to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The second petition asks for the opposite.

[*Translation*]

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Mr. Réal Ménard (Hochelaga—Maisonnette, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 asking the Canadian government to conform to the decision of the courts, which have ordered that the Canadian Human Rights Act

be interpreted as also prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The petitioners therefore ask Parliament to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act in order to protect people against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and I support this petition.

[*English*]

JUSTICE

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure this morning to present a petition containing 5,703 signatures from the lower mainland.

There has been great concern not only in my constituency and my area but across Canada for dangerous offenders walking our streets. These petitioners are asking Parliament to enact legislation against serious personal injury crimes being committed by high risk offenders by permitting the use of post sentence detention orders and specifically by passing Bill C-240.

It is my honour to present this on behalf of my petitioners.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today. The first petition comes from 1,520 petitioners of the riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt.

• (1005)

They call on Parliament to reduce the federal deficit by reducing government spending and refrain from any form of increased taxation. The government has ignored that already.

GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the second petition deals with 1,032 petitioners from Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt who call on Parliament to oppose further legislation for firearms acquisition and possession and to provide strict guidelines and mandatory sentences for the use or possession of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

This brings to date 2,958 petitioners from my riding. I support both these petitions.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Jim Abbott (Kootenay East, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to present a petition with 38 signatures from citizens of the town of Elkford calling upon Parliament not to enact any