

*Routine Proceedings*

## YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

**Mr. Ian McClelland (Edmonton Southwest, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today to present a petition that is part of a larger petition of almost 64,000 signatories. This petition contains approximately 18,000 signatures of citizens in and around Edmonton Southwest who are asking that the Young Offenders Act be changed and strengthened so that it would have the effect of deterring criminal behaviour by young people.

There are many citizens across the country who feel that the Young Offenders Act does not do what it was intended to do. These 18,000 citizens of our country are requesting the Parliament of Canada to strengthen the Young Offenders Act.

It is my pleasure to introduce this in the House today.

## CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition to the House of Commons. The petition contains 8,000 signatures collected by representatives of the Animal Defence League of Canada.

The petitioners note that individuals convicted of wilfully causing pain and injury to an animal presently face maximum penalties of six months in jail to two years prohibition from owning an animal and/or a maximum fine of \$2,000.

The petitioners note also that in practice they do not know of any maximum penalty ever having been issued no matter how atrocious the offence. The petitioners state that they find this abhorrent and unacceptable when animals are not appropriately dealt with by our laws.

Therefore, the petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to enact harsher penalties for offences against animals and establish an education program for judges to help them understand society's abhorrence and condemnation of acts of cruelty to animals.

## DRUG PRICES

**Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions to present today pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The first petition pertains to Bill C-91, the drug patent legislation. The petitioners who have signed this petition are from my district of Regina—Lumsden in Saskatchewan as well as the cities and towns of Saskatoon, Borden, Hafford, Speers, Nipawin.

These petitioners are unhappy with the 12 per cent annual increase in prescription drugs since this bill was passed. They are asking that Bill C-91, which has placed financial burdens on

them and health care programs across this country, be repealed. They request the House of Commons to do same.

## PAROLE

**Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my second petition is signed by petitioners from the Saskatchewan communities of Kelliher, Sifton, Watrous, Raymore, Punni-chy, Ituna, Simpson, Foam Lake and other locations.

Under section 745 of the Criminal Code of Canada, convicted murderers sentenced to life imprisonment without chance of parole for 25 years are able to apply for a review after 15 years. They are calling for the House of Commons to repeal section 745 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

## SENATE

**Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my third and final petition this morning deals with the Senate.

The petitioners are from my constituency of Regina—Lumsden as well as from Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan. In view of the fact that the Senate costs approximately \$60 million a year and in their view the purpose of the Senate is useless, they are asking the House of Commons to repeal sections 41 and 42 of the Constitution Act which would in effect abolish the Senate.

• (1025)

## YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

**Mr. David Chatters (Athabasca, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition from my constituents containing 2,700 names, which is also part of a larger petition prompted by the murder of Barb Denelesko.

The petitioners state that Canadian citizens from coast to coast are calling for changes to the Young Offenders Act. They want an act serious enough to deter young people from committing crimes and tough enough to provide real justice. In its current format the Young Offenders Act is not meeting these objectives. The petitioners request that the Government of Canada review the Young Offenders Act of 1992 and amend it accordingly.

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## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Is that agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I think you would find unanimous consent for the following motion. I move: