

*Routine Proceedings*

business for a debate, but I shall be watching the matter very closely.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[*English*]

**PETITIONS****POVERTY**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting a petition to the House of Commons and the government from Ellen Sommerville. This a petition of largely senior citizens from my riding who point out that some 80 per cent of single women over the age of 65 live in poverty and that hundreds of thousands of Canadians across the country who are senior citizens live in poverty.

The petitioners therefore appeal that it is undignified to increase Old Age Security by 37 cents a month. They would rather have the government keep that 37 cents each month than be humiliated in that fashion. They are requesting the Government of Canada to try to make the Old Age Security not only dignified but realistic to meet the aspirations of senior citizens in this country.

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to present petitions on behalf of constituents of Winnipeg North with respect to the Old Age Security pensions and the Seniors Independence Program.

My constituents are concerned that there are still thousands and thousands of Canadian seniors who live in poverty, that in fact the 37 cent increase in their pensions in April 1992 not only ignores the needs of many of them but is an insult to them, and that moreover the federal government has a primary responsibility to ensure the adequacy of seniors' pensions.

Therefore, these petitioners humbly pray and call upon this House to ensure that the Old Age Security pensions are sufficient to meet the basic needs of our seniors and that the government restore a strong support for the Seniors Independence Program.

**TRUCKING INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants):** Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and honour to present two petitions by good constituents and especially good Nova

Scotians on something that exists right at the grassroots of one's riding, and that is the concern that my petitioners have about the variance between federal truck rates and provincial truck rates and the problems that this causes in predatory pricing.

My petitioners call upon Parliament to enact legislation for the adoption of minimum rate schedules for dump trucks on federal projects at rates not less than the minimum truck haul rates and conditions set by each province where the federal project is to be undertaken. I so humbly pray on their behalf.

**NATIONAL REFERENDUM**

**Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present to the House a petition from a number of my constituents living in the Ernestown and Napanee areas situated in my riding of Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington.

These petitioners are supporting the government's commitment as stated in the Speech from the Throne on May 13, 1991 to introduce legislation which would permit a national referendum on the Constitution if necessary.

• (1520)

**SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which is signed by residents of Ottawa, Gatineau and Hull collected by Janice Manchee from the Public Service Alliance of Canada, Human Rights Division.

The petitioners note that in October 1985 the subcommittee on equality rights of the justice committee unanimously recommended to Parliament that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all areas of federal jurisdiction.

They note that the government promised in March 1986 to implement this recommendation but that some six years later the government has yet to act. They point out that the Canadian Human Rights Commission has called for this amendment and that a number of provincial governments have acted.

Therefore, they call upon Parliament to ensure that government and Parliament act to bring forward immediately an amendment to add sexual orientation to the Canadian Human Rights Act as a prohibited ground of discrimination.