

Routine Proceedings

PETITIONS

BILL C-21

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition, in accordance with Standing Order 36, which has been duly certified by the clerk. It is from 35 of my constituents from the area of Catalina, Bonavista, Port Union, Little Catalina, Melrose, and Elliston.

This petition is concerned about the extra four weeks that people in Newfoundland have to qualify for unemployment insurance. They are very concerned that they will not qualify as the rule stands right now.

I have well over 3,000 in my riding who are concerned about this matter. I was in Catalina and Bonavista this past weekend and the number of people who came to me was well in advance of the 35 who have signed here.

They are concerned that the unemployment rate in Newfoundland is of the highest order in the country. They humbly pray that the variable entrance requirements will be introduced, which would reduce their qualifying time for UIC from 14 weeks to 10 weeks.

CANADA POST

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I rise today, under Standing Order 36, to present a petition signed by 1,784 residents of Winnipeg North. The petitioners object to the closure of postal services at the Chapman Pharmacy. They point out that the Chapman Pharmacy is conveniently located at a major intersection in Winnipeg, offers optimally convenient hours for residents of the surrounding areas, and has a surrounding community that consists of many seniors and lower-income Canadians who rely heavily on nearby services including the complete range of services provided by this pharmacy.

• (1510)

Moreover, no adequate consultation with this pharmacy was done, and the shortest possible notice was given. Even the month chosen to give notice was one during which the House of Commons was in recess; hence the concerns of the pharmacists and their customers could

not be voiced in Parliament in time. Indeed this postal service outlet has served the community for many decades.

Hence, the petitioners ask Parliament to do all it can in order for the minister responsible for Canada Post Corporation to reconsider the decision taken by this corporation to close postal services at the Chapman Pharmacy, in the interest of fairness to the Chapman Pharmacy and in recognition of the excellent postal services it has rendered to its many customers who stand to suffer should the closure persist. Therefore, the petitioners seek remedy in this House.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour of presenting petitions on behalf of Canadians, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The residents of Canada who signed this petition state that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protects children's human rights in such key areas as adoption, survival, development, protection of the child's identity, sexual exploitation, neglect, and drug abuse.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge strongly the federal government to encourage universal adherence to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and prompt an effective implementation of its provisions.

The petitioners ask the federal government to review its legislation and policies for consistency with the convention.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On Friday I began a question of privilege on the behaviour of the New Democratic House leader and was asked to come back on Monday to continue that presentation in the expectation that the member would be here.

I see that the member is not here. I would just simply like to confirm with the Chair that I will be allowed to proceed with those arguments when in fact the House leader of the New Democratic Party does arrive in the House and, if that is later this day for some reason, that I would be properly notified by the Table so that I would have an adequate chance to prepare and appear.