

That, notwithstanding any order or practice of this House, the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1991, which was deemed referred to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on February 3, 1992, be deemed referred as well to the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Regional and Northern Development.

**Mr. Speaker:** On the same point, does the hon. parliamentary secretary have the unanimous consent of the House? Is it agreed?

**An hon. member:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. parliamentary secretary apparently does not have the unanimous consent of the House.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Venne:** Mr. Speaker, I have to refuse unanimous consent. We have not been consulted in any way. We would appreciate next time around to be consulted so that we from the Bloc Quebecois know ahead of time what is going on and decide on our course of action. For the time being, the answer is no.

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[*English*]

## PETITIONS

### NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions this afternoon. One is from a number of residents of the North Thompson Valley in British Columbia who indicate their opposition to the intention to dam the North Thompson River and divert some of the water into the California area. They are asking the Government of Canada to state categorically that our river water is not for sale in this fashion to the Americans.

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** On another matter, a number of constituents from the Kamloops region of British Columbia are concerned about the rumours of RCMP cutbacks. They are asking that we ensure the RCMP obtain proper funding so it will be able to fulfil its mandate and role as the only police force for communities across British Columbia and remain as a viable symbol of Canadian unity.

## Routine Proceedings

### JUSTICE

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain):** I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36. I have the signatures of several thousand people who feel that there are serious deficiencies in the criminal justice system. Many vulnerable persons have little protection under the current system. It is women, children and disabled persons who are at particular risk.

These petitioners request that Parliament recognize that crimes of violence against the person are serious and abhorrent to society and they request that the government amend the Criminal Code of Canada, the Bail Reform Act of 1972 and the Parole Act accordingly.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I have two petitions to present to the House today.

The first petition is from a number of residents of my riding, in particular from Penticton through the Okanagan Valley, with respect to the rural communications matter. They urge the Minister of Communications to oppose Unitel's present bid to compete with Canada's telephone companies' long distance service and also urge the Minister of Communications to hold local hearings in our communities before deciding the fate of the telecommunications system in Canada.

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt):** The next petition is from a number of residents throughout my riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt.

While the subject has been somewhat dealt with in recent developments involving the Solicitor General and the RCMP in various provinces, they are still concerned about the continuation of RCMP services within the province of British Columbia and urge the government to consider restoring proper funding to the RCMP so it can continue to fulfil its mandate and role as the only visible police force for communities across British Columbia and remain as a viable symbol of Canadian unity.

### INCOME TAX ACT

**Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 it is an honour and a privilege to present a petition on behalf of hundreds of residents of the riding of Elk Island in Alberta calling upon Parliament to amend the Income Tax Act such that child related benefits and deductions for child care are fair