

*Routine Proceedings***INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN
DEVELOPMENT**

REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, in reference to a committee, I move:

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.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 36 to present a number of petitions with thousands of names of people from rural Canada who are petitioning this government to zero rate water for potable supply.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, when the GST came in unfortunately it put a tax on water in rural Canada. These Canadians, in fact Canadians throughout Canada, want this government to take the GST off water.

GUYANA

Mr. A. H. Harry Brightwell (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 based on the human rights violations in Guyana. I must say that this petition was generated by a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Erb, who spent some time in Guyana and observed firsthand the problems in its elections. They urge the Government of Canada to consider making conditional any future development assistance to Guyana on the holding of fair and free elections by May 30, 1991.

PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 36 to present some petitions signed primarily by residents of

the Prince George, B.C. area but other parts of British Columbia as well. The petition calls upon Parliament to respect the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers and also expresses concern about the further contracting out of jobs in the public sector.

CANADA POST

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of the residents of the city of Penticton, British Columbia, who are outraged at the possibility and the notice that they have had that their post office will be closed.

Almost one-half of the members of the community of Penticton are petitioning Parliament through me, stating that Canada Post is closing and privatizing post offices. Canada Post will be closing the Penticton post office on February 10, 1992 and converting this post office to a commercial service centre only for commercial use.

The petitioners are asking Parliament to stop this closure and the privatization of postal services and to ensure that the citizens and taxpayers of Penticton, British Columbia have a full service post office which is directly run by Canada Post Corporation.

NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and indeed a privilege to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents from the North Thompson valley in British Columbia who are concerned about the intentions of a Vancouver-based company with connections in Los Angeles to build a dam and divert the North Thompson River partly into the United States.

The petitioners are asking that the Canadian government state categorically once and for all that the rivers of Canada are not for sale.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, residents of Kamloops, British Columbia and two or three of the surrounding rural areas are concerned about the inadequate funding for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The petitioners are concerned about the increasing level of lawlessness as they define it in their communities, and they are asking that the federal government