

Petitions

The petitioners indicate that they believe the railroad was established as a national system in the last century and has played an integral part in the growth of Canada, that the loss of jobs will be a significant loss for the country. Many communities rely on rail service as their primary means of transportation.

They call upon Parliament to urge the Government not to cancel in whole or in part VIA Rail passenger service across Canada.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I too have the honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 regarding the Government's intention to close down all or part of VIA Rail.

The petitioners from western Canada point out the very critical role that VIA plays in the development of the economy of western Canada, particularly the development of the tourist sector there.

They are asking Parliament to maintain, improve, and modernize VIA Rail service as opposed to cutting it back and give a whole set of reasons as to why it would be in the best interest of the country.

ARMX '89 ARMS BAZAAR

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I also have another petition on a different topic. Again it is certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 36.

It points out the Government's involvement in ARMX '89, the arms bazaar currently being held in the nation's capital. It illustrates the Government's support for the growing militarization of our Canadian economy.

The petitioners also point out that the potential customers at this exhibit, those who have received special invitations, include countries which have habitually violated the human rights of their citizens. They point out that military spending of course diverts material and human resources from more important economic activities and social programs.

They call upon Parliament to cease all government involvement in the expansion of the international market for military and policing equipment, particularly the Government's support of ARMX '89.

VIA RAIL SERVICES

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, I have two petitions to present from people in my riding. The first quotes the Progressive Conservative Party of Cana-

da which said: "The federal Government has the responsibility to ensure that rail passenger services in Canada be retained, modernized, and expanded as an important part of our national transportation system".

The petitioners point out that the Government has failed to live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail. They call on the Government to abandon its plans to cut back VIA's budget and to provide the necessary resources to allow VIA to operate as a modern, effective transportation company rather than as a museum.

MARKETING OF OATS AND BARLEY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, my second petition calls upon the Government not to sign the Order in Council which would remove oats from the marketing jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board, and to place oats and barley under the Wheat Board Act in such a way that in future farm organizations and the Parliament of Canada must be consulted before changes are made to the marketing of these products.

UNREST IN GUATEMALA

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty in accordance with Standing Order 36 to present several petitions which have been duly certified by the Clerk.

The first is a petition from a number of residents of Newfoundland who point out that in Guatemala bombing, torture, disappearances, and murders of the civilian population are increasing.

They call upon Parliament to direct the Government to stop all government to government aid to Guatemala and not to renew it until there is a genuine end to the war between the Government of Guatemala and its own citizens.

IMMIGRATION—REFUGEE BACKLOG

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Madam Speaker, I have another petition from about 300 persons mainly in the City of Toronto who are concerned with the uncertainty about the Government's programs for dealing with the refugee backlog that came about in the last few years.

They point out that there will be a great many of them who may be denied the opportunity to stay in Canada through inadequate hearings of the merits either of their