

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 3, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ANNIVERSARY OF 1916 FIRE—SIGNIFICANCE OF MACE

Mr. Speaker: Prior to calling Orders of the Day, may I make the traditional announcement to the House that, in recognition of the seventy-first anniversary of the fire which destroyed the Centre Block on this day in 1916, I would draw to the attention of Hon. Members the wooden replica of the mace on the Clerk's table. This mace was used for many years as a replacement for the original one destroyed by fire.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the annual report of the Department of Communications for the fiscal year.

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ELECTIONS, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES

PRESENTATION OF SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the second report of the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedures which deals with Routine Proceedings on Fridays and suggests some changes to the time the House will sit.

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

MINING EXPLORATION SECTOR—EXISTING SHARE REGIME

Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I wish to present a petition signed by 133

petitioners from Val-d'Or, Amos, Preissac, Malartic, Barraute, Senneterre, Dubuisson, Val-Senneville, Duparquet and Sullivan, in the riding of Abitibi, and by myself.

Whereas the Government of Canada made flow-through shares in the mining sector eligible for the purposes of income tax; whereas 133-1/3 per cent of the value of the shares could be deducted; and whereas the people of Canada, as a result of this tax provision, were helping to develop mining exploration, reduce unemployment and develop our northern and remote regions, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the existing provision for flow-through shares in the mining sector at 133-1/3, for the years 1987-88-89.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition, signed by the required number of people, and which has met the requirements of Standing Order 106. Whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act will affect directly all Canadians who are not protected by private and Government medicare programs, and whereas the federal Government's proposal will raise the costs, which are already high, of the provincial health care programs, and whereas the monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and will result in an increase in drug costs and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs, and whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act are another example of the Government's concessions in the free trade negotiations with the United States at the expense of ordinary Canadians, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

RIDEAU HALL—PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO GROUNDS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I also have several petitions from people in Ottawa, Hull and Newfoundland, in fact, from all over Canada. The undersigned residents of Canada now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners. Whereas the decision regarding the closure of the Rideau Hall grounds was made by the National Capital Commission, the Department of Public Works, the RCMP and the Office of the Governor General without prior notice, and whereas the closure of this attractive and tranquil park affects thousands of visitors to the Capital from across the country