

*Routine Proceedings***DIVORCE ACT**

Mrs. Daphne Jennings (Mission—Coquitlam) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-232, an act to amend the Divorce Act (granting of access to, or custody of, a child to a grandparent).

She said: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by my hon. friend from Nepean, for leave to introduce a private member's bill, an act to amend the Divorce Act, by granting access to, or custody of, a child to a grandparent.

In this year of the family it seems appropriate to recognize in statute the rights of grandparents to have access to their grandchildren or to be able to be informed of their well-being should the parents of the grandchild divorce.

At present the Divorce Act overlooks the rights of grandparents and this bill, should it become law, would put these rights squarely before the judge in the divorce matter so they will be taken into consideration when a divorce decree is granted.

(Motions deemed adopted, bill read the first time and printed.)

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[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PROCEDURE AND HOUSE AFFAIRS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the fourteenth report of the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs presented to the House today be concurred in.

(Motion agreed to.)

[English]

Mr. Hermanson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Which report is that?

The Deputy Speaker: The 14th report.

FINANCE

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would also move:

That up to 10 members of the Standing Committee on Finance and up to 10 staff be authorized to travel to Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver between April 10 and 16, 1994 and up to 10 members of the said committee and up to 10 staff be authorized to travel to Quebec, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John's and Charlottetown between April 17 and 22, 1994.

(Motion agreed to.)

• (1225)

[Translation]

PETITIONS

TAXATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, these petitioners ask for an overhaul of the Canadian tax system. They would like special attention to be given to spouses. Often wives stay at home to raise their family, so that those who have children with special problems, often called handicapped, face significant challenges.

[English]

The petitioners would like the government to look at the system of taxation in Canada and pay particular attention to people who stay at home, very often without choice, to raise their children.

They feel the system is not as sensitive as it should be to that situation, particularly when there are children with special difficulties that need to be retained in the home or go to special facilities.

VIOLENT CRIME

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to add these petitions and the thousands of signatures to the over 2.5 million signatures that I have already presented in the House in the last two years.

The petitioners feel there are serious deficiencies in the criminal justice system, that there are many vulnerable persons who have little protection under the current system; women, children and disabled persons are at particular risk.

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

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, it is my pleasure to introduce a petition dealing with the prayer in this House.

I realize that we have already dealt with it but it is my obligation to present all petitions which are in proper form. I believe as well the response may correct some of the misinformation being distributed by the member for Saint John.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all questions be allowed to stand.