

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 8, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ORDER IN COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

TABLING OF CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour this morning under Standing Order 110(2) to table a certificate of nomination in the Chamber.

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PETITIONS

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, pursuant to Standing Order 36, two petitions this morning. The first one points out that family class and assisted relative immigration has always been an important part of Canadian immigration and that family class and assisted relatives have people in Canada who will assist them with finding employment, housing and learning the Canadian language and customs.

• (1010)

It calls upon this government to reverse its current policy and undertake to make family class and assisted relatives always the priority for immigration.

THE PUNJAB

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, the second petition points out that 75 per cent to 80 per cent of all activity in the New Delhi office in India comes from people applying for immigration or visitors' visas from the Punjab.

It also points out that it is very difficult for people to travel from the Punjab to New Delhi, and calls upon this government to immediately establish a consular service for immigration and visitors' visas in the Punjab.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present three petitions this morning.

In the first one, the petitioners are concerned about the cuts to funding for the RCMP. They ask the government to re-examine the decision to force the province to increase funding for the RCMP as a federal police force.

VIA RAIL

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the second petition that I have concerns the cuts to the VIA Rail system.

This petition has signatures that are mostly from Saltspring Island, Sidney and Victoria. The petitioners ask the government to maintain VIA Rail's present national network and to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the third petition is concerned with Canada's loans to Brazil and the use of that money for destroying the rain forest.

The petitioners ask that the Canadian government develop a policy that will prevent any Canadian capital from being used to damage or destroy a rain forest, including construction of dams, clearing of land for cattle ranching and development of mines, all of which would extinguish species and displace and irreparably harm native people.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, the petitioners in this first instance deplore that the Government of Canada has imposed the goods and services tax on magazines, books and newspapers.

They ask that this be removed. They point out that dissemination of the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy, our cultural heritage and our education. They point out as well that in order to have a productive society, there must be no tax.