

Routine Proceedings

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present the names of close to 600 petitioners who signed this petition stating that thousands of east Europeans did enter Canada legally in good faith and did subsequently apply as self-exiles in good faith.

• (1540)

Self-exiles from Poland and other east European countries are unable to work or attend school while waiting for their applications to be processed, creating unnecessary hardship for both themselves and their sponsors. The processing time for many of these self-exile applicants is up to three years. The quotas imposed by the Minister of Employment and Immigration limit the number of applications being processed.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to request the Minister of Employment and Immigration to reciprocate on their good faith and speed up the process, remove quotas, and allow self-exile applicants to work or attend school while waiting for applications to be processed.

I am pleased that the minister responsible is present to hear these petitioners, and I hope that she will act on these before Easter.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition. This is further to the thousands of Canadians who have already petitioned this House calling upon the government to issue a stamp in honour of Marie Sklodowska Curie who discovered radium. This honour can be made by issuing a commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of her birth, which will take place on November 7, 1992.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present to the House numerous petitions signed by citizens from North York, Thornhill, Willowdale, and several hundred from Guelph, Cambridge, and others outside of Toronto, all of them objecting strenuously to the unjust imposition of taxes on books, on reading, on literacy.

All of the petitioners humbly implore this Parliament to urge the government to withdraw the GST on text-

books and other materials that lead to literacy and culture.

HEALTH CARE

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on the subject of the private member's bill introduced this day by the hon. member from Fraser Valley West. The petition points out the difficult questions confronting health care professionals, family members and terminally ill persons which have grown more complex with the advancement of medical technology. It calls upon Parliament to acknowledge openly the urgent need for changes to address the present denial of human dignity among thousands of elderly and dying Canadians by taking such actions as it deems appropriate to cause the government to examine the numerous proposals now being presented which would safeguard the right of every Canadian to control his or her own life to the end.

ETHANOL BASED GASOLINES

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise again to present petitions signed by over 400 members of my constituency supporting the use of ethanol based gasolines. They want the government to make the oxygen content of gasoline at least 3.2 per cent and to ban methylcyclopentadienyl from further use in the automotive industry and as automotive fuel.

I am shocked that in response to earlier petitions the government has been responding using technology that is probably 10 or 12 years old and not up to current standards on the efficiencies that are involved in manufacturing this product or some of the end uses, one of which is a flour that can be used for human consumption, particularly suitable for Third World countries.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions signed by approximately 900 or so Canadians, plus some visitors to our country. It is part of the "Put Canada Back on Track" campaign. The petitioners, who are from right across Canada, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to support the NDP plan to restore VIA Rail services cut on January 15, 1990, to maintain and where appropriate upgrade remote services on which many Canadians rely, to provide a legislative mandate for VIA Rail, and to make available to VIA the resources which it needs to become a modern passenger rail system in a class with those throughout the rest of the western world.