

Petitions

petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the National Capital Commission to reverse its decision to raise the rent and to continue, as in the past, charging the symbolic sum of one dollar.

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): If I may, Mr. Speaker, a brief comment before presenting my petition. This is the first Friday I am in the House since the Standing Orders have been changed, and on Fridays we rise at 3 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. I am proud that this new Standing Order has been adopted because it was a project I launched nearly a year ago.

I am proud because not only Members but also the Clerks, the stenographers and all the staff of the House can finish earlier.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF PART-TIME SERVICE
CENTRES—NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House a petition in the name of the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean AQDR and its 1,530 members, the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean FADOC and its 13,500 members, and the Lac-Saint-Jean information and redevelopment service which request the continuation of the part-time service centres of the Department of National Health and Welfare of Canada at the temporary offices of Alma, Roberval, Saint-Félicien, Dolbeau, Jonquière, and Ville de la Baie.

• (1220)

[English]

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FAIR ORAL HEARINGS BEFORE REFUGEE
BOARD

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition against Bill C-55 which attempts to change the entry system for refugees in this country. The people who have signed this petition come from many different parts of Canada. They are deeply concerned about the limitations to the right of appeal in this Bill. They are deeply concerned about the notion of a safe third country. They suggest that Parliament should look instead to the Standing Committee which has made many recommendations for a better and more humane direction for the future.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition signed by about 200 Canadians, most of whom are from the City of Toronto. They point out that since many people are driven by the troubles in the world to seek safety from persecution in Canada and since the existing system of refugee status determination has been overloaded, a new system is needed. They advocate the one which was developed a year and a half ago by the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour, Employment and Immigration which has widespread public support.

Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ensure that the Government enacts legislation which will embody the principles of fair and quick oral hearings for

refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every claimant in Canada, and adequate opportunity to arrive in Canada to make this claim.

Mr. Speaker, I have another petition which relates to the same matter but has a different prayer. It points out that Bill C-55 threatens to undermine Canada's commitment to assisting refugees, in particular by screening out many who might have a genuine claim. The petitioners recommend that the new procedure for refugee claimants should be that recommended by the Standing Committee of Parliament.

Therefore, they recommend that Parliament withdraw Bill C-55 and substitute therefor legislation embodying the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of claims of refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to such hearings for every applicant in Canada, and the right to appeal on the basis of fact.

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AT ARMED FORCES BASE GOOSE BAY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition from a number of residents in many parts of Canada who are concerned that the low-level flight training of pilots of NATO countries at the Canadian Forces Base in Goose Bay, Labrador, is disrupting the way of life of many of the native people there and is also a provocative and aggressive war-fighting action which tends to endanger world peace.

They therefore request Parliament to ensure that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) end all low-level flight training at the Goose Bay Canadian Forces Base and cease negotiations with NATO for the establishment of a larger base there.

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106 signed by petitioners in Ontario and a variety of places in British Columbia who are increasingly concerned that the number of chemicals used as herbicides and insecticides are being proven to have harmful effects on human health.

They believe that these chemicals produce short and long-term harmful effects on non-target organisms such as soil and water. They say that the same chemicals have, in past years, been registered and approved as safe for various uses. They believe that the new chemicals are consistently approved under the same guidelines as the now-proven-harmful ones were and that the non-active inert components contained in the distributed product have been neither adequately tested nor named.

Therefore, they are calling upon the House of Commons to initiate a full public inquiry into the safety, testing, registration and regulation of the use of pesticides. They ask the House of Commons to consider the examination of alternative