

Routine Proceedings

Article 11(e) establishes a right to social security, contrary to the government's clawback policy on pensions and on family allowances. Article 11(2)(c) speaks of a development of a network of child care facilities. Where is Canada's much needed child care program? Will this government once again introduce a program two months before an election, only to have it die once again on the Order Paper?

Articles 3 and 5 can be applied to bring in pornography legislation, legislation that attacks violence and pornography and not sexuality.

There are three other points made in Canada's second report on its implementation of the Convention that need examining. One is its glorification of the Court Challenges Program. I hope that this means that the program will be extended. The second is the repeal of discrimination in the Indian Act. However, there still does remain discrimination in the Act since reinstated women can only pass status down to the first generation while men can pass status down to subsequent generations.

The report also discusses the prison for women. I visited the Kingston prison for women and I found the conditions there just absolutely shocking. I would hope that in Canada's next report, there will be real, rather than imagined, progress to comment on as far as the prison for women in Kingston goes.

The preamble of the convention says that signatories are "concerned that in situations of poverty, women have the least access to food, health care, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs, convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order, based on equity and justice, will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women—".

In Canada, the devastating reality is that one in three female single parents in the paid workforce cannot keep her family out of poverty and 53.4 per cent of female-headed, single parent families are poor. Three-quarters of all poor seniors are women.

What we need to fulfil our convention obligations is really a new economic order, one that puts people first, one for which full employment is a priority, one that redistributes wealth, an economic order that is based on equality and justice for all.

[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

OPPOSITION TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I wish to present two petitions which reject the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas. Your petitioners, who are residents of the isolated community of Lebel-sur-Quévillon in Abitibi, are concerned about the recommendations in this as yet unfinished report.

Mr. Speaker, the task force's final report does not contain single reference to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Cree-Naskapi Agreement or to the final report published in October 1989 on regional disparities among isolated communities, carried out by the Government of Quebec.

• (1130)

[*English*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36, certified correct by the clerk of petitions from a number of people from Kamloops, British Columbia. The petitioners are distraught at the news that the government is going to proceed with the goods and services tax and make the announcement tomorrow that it will be reduced to 7 per cent. I personally feel depressed to read all of the things they have drawn to our attention which cause them to be so discouraged and disillusioned with the government.

In summary, they are asking the government to please have some sensitivity as to what is going on in the country and back off from this cruel, brutal tax.

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by hundreds of Canadians from Montreal, living in the constituency of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who strongly oppose the new goods and service tax. They state it is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians. It will hit them not only with higher taxes, but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment. They humbly