

Routine Proceedings

OLD AGE SECURITY

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to table a petition from some of our country's seniors. They say that far too many seniors now live in poverty and are always in financial difficulty for lack of sufficient income.

The petitioners ask Parliament to kindly ask the government to re-evaluate Old Age Security so that it reflects the real needs of Canada's seniors.

[*English*]

HEALTH CARE

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): I have another petition, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners are telling us that Canadian universal medicare is the principle of our Canadian heritage and our identity. Recent cutbacks to health care have undermined the principle of universality in Canada.

The petitioners request that Parliament take all necessary measures to enshrine in the Constitution the obligation to provide universal, publicly funded hospital and medical care to all citizens.

TAXATION

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present on behalf of teachers in public and secondary schools as well as post-secondary institutions. They note that they bear the burden of extra-curricular expenses to improve their own professional skills, as well as providing academic services and materials to the students for whom they are responsible.

The petitioners note that business people and self-employed professionals are able to deduct the costs of their in-service training and business expenses but teachers are not. They call upon parliamentarians to request that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Revenue take action to amend the Income Tax Act to allow teachers who teach in educational institutions in Canada to deduct professional expenses made in the course of their employment.

JUSTICE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from another 250 residents of the Comox Valley who, in memory of Dawn Shaw, a little girl who was murdered and sexually assaulted in the valley, have petitioned Parliament asking that the present

justice system be changed to allow for more protection for children in our communities who are increasingly becoming victims of sexual assault.

The petitioners propose a number of changes in the justice system which they believe would improve the safety of children and protect them from sexual assault. One of those changes is permitting police to take DNA samples from persons suspected of sexual assault and also that a national database of DNA imprints be kept in order to assist the police in tracking down people who perpetrate sexual assaults.

CHILD POVERTY

Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk—Red River): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I would like to present a petition to the House from the constituents of Selkirk—Red River, Portage—Interlake, Winnipeg—St. Boniface and Winnipeg Transcona, calling on Parliament to reconfirm its commitment to seek the elimination of poverty among children in Canada by the year 2000.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Huron—Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today from the congregations of Knox Presbyterian Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church both in my riding and as well from the people from Port Elgin, Southampton and Paisley in my riding, calling on Parliament to accept legislation designed to eliminate violence against women and children.

[*Translation*]

HEALTH CARE

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, because of some recent events in the health field, I have a petition to present.

[*English*]

The petitioners indicate that medicare is under threat as a result of reductions in federal cash payments to provincial health care systems, changes in drug patent legislation leading to monopoly production and rising drug prices, as well as a lack of a co-ordinated national strategy for health care reform.

They say there are alternative policies that would preserve medicare, provide medical services on a more efficient basis than the American pay as you go system and guarantee health care as a basic right for all Canadians.