

HOUSING

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on another topic, the petitioners from Kamloops call on the government to reconsider the decision not to proceed with more co-operative housing. They feel this provides adequate housing, accessible for people who normally have difficulty accessing decent housing.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Mrs. Edna Anderson (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition from Simcoe Centre area, which humbly prays and calls upon Parliament to enact legislation providing for a referendum of the people binding upon Parliament to accept or reject constitutional amendments proposed by the government.

CHINESE HEAD TAX

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions to present.

The first one which is quite detailed comes from a large number of Canadians of Chinese origin and concerns the Chinese head tax. The petitioners state that Chinese immigrants came to Canada in the early part of this century and had to pay a racist head tax. Some 81,000 Chinese immigrants paid approximately \$23 million, a sum worth over \$1 billion today. That was followed by the Chinese Immigration Exclusion Act, which was not repealed until 1947, and which prohibited virtually all Chinese immigration. Both these policies had a very negative impact on Canadians of Chinese ancestry, led to a bachelor society, severely hindered—

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: I think the House is very aware of the matter the hon. member is raising but we are limited in remarks made at the presentation of a petition. I would ask the hon. member to proceed with the petition itself.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, the petitioners ask for an all-party resolution to consider this matter. They call on the Government of Canada to provide symbolic financial redress of \$10,000 for the head tax certificate, community financial redress and post-commemorative plaques regarding the Chinese Canadians who worked on the

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railways. They ask Parliament to pledge again to ensure such injustices will never happen again, including reform of the charter of rights, and in particular to respect section 33.

That was my first petition. I have several which I will combine into one although they are different.

Mr. Speaker: Do I have assurance they are on a different subject?

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Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the three petitions are on the subject of co-op housing. They are quite different petitions but I will combine the essence of them.

These petitioners are from throughout Vancouver and B.C. who are very concerned the federal government has discontinued the co-op housing program and are reducing the CMHC programs. They urge the federal government to reinstate co-operative housing.

RWANDA

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition from a number of residents of the cities of Toronto, Scarborough, Downsview, and North York.

The petitioners are concerned about the military dictatorship in Rwanda which has lasted for 30 years. The pass laws, the only ones in the world similar to South Africa's pass laws, refuse to let two million exiled Rwandans return.

They urge Parliament to urge the Canadian government to apply pressure on the Rwandan regime to immediately stop killing innocent Rwandans, to urge the Canadian government to stop economic aid and other forms of assistance to the current Rwandan regime, and to urge the Canadian government to support the European Community resolution on Rwanda issued on February 20, 1992.

CFB CORNWALLIS

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I too rise at this time to petition the House on behalf of my constituents and a few others from outside of