

*Petitions*

their House Leader and their Whip, the method for presenting petitions. Citation 692 on page 213 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition reads as follows:

- (1) While a Member may, if he desires, present a petition from his place in the House during Routine Proceedings and before the Introduction of Bills, he may also present his petition by filing it with the Clerk of the House.
- (2) When a Member presents a petition, he may not make a speech nor present argument in support of the petition.

I believe there are other members who would like to present petitions. Therefore, I would like Hon. Members to shorten their presentations. Particularly today, a national day of prayer, let us show a little love and affection between Members of Parliament. Let us get on with the business of the day.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, I hope that nothing I might have done would obscure the fact that I love both you and the rest of the Hon. Members here. However, I was reading the prayer and I thought I was very strictly following the directions you gave to us previously in these circumstances.

The petition goes on to mention the development of a national policy for research, science and technology based upon a target of 2.5 per cent of the GNP devoted to research and development.

SUPPORT FOR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition which comes from Halifax and concerns the fact that there are many people in many parts of the world who seek safety. The petitioners note that Canada has had standards of refugee status determination that have worked well but have now suffered certain strains. They express concern about new procedures being enforced and support the position of the Canadian Council of Churches, the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Jewish Congress that Parliament ensure that the Government and Parliament will enact legislation that will embody the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of refugee claimants before a refugee board independent of the Immigration Commission, and as in duty bound your petitioners ever pray.

• (1230)

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—POSSIBLE LOSS OF BENEFITS

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** The next petition I have is from British Columbia. The petitioners note that fishermen across Canada fear their right to collect unemployment insurance is threatened. They point out that unemployment insurance must be improved in order to meet the needs of those who avail themselves of it. Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ensure that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) rejects any recommendations which would deprive fishermen of their right to collect unemployment insurance, and enter into consultations with all representatives of fishermen in order that improvements to the program be made, as in duty-bound your petitioners ever pray.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, finally I have a petition signed by citizens from the Toronto area. They take exception to changes in the Patent Act which will increase prices of prescription drugs and unfairly hurt those Canadians who require drugs for their health needs. They note that these changes are a result of pressures imposed from an alien source. Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals, as in duty-bound your petitioners will ever pray.

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST CORPORATE PLAN

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition signed by 630 constituents in the riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, which, added to the 6,223 constituents who have presented similar grievances previously, adds up to a grand total of 7,353. The undersigned ask that the Canada Post Corporation drop its plans that would lead to shutting down a number of rural post offices. Petitioners also want the Canada Post Corporation to drop its plan to stop providing home delivery in urban areas.

[*English*]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE—POSSIBLE LOSS OF BENEFITS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition on behalf of a number of British Columbia petitioners, pursuant to Standing Order 106. The petitioners are fearful that the federal Government is seriously contemplating taking away their right to collect unemployment insurance. Therefore, they ask Parliament to ensure that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) rejects any recommendation which would deprive fishermen of their right to collect unemployment insurance, and ask that the Minister enter into consultations with the fishermen in order that improvements to the program be made.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I have another set of petitions on a different topic altogether. The petitioners are concerned about the Government's plan to proceed with Bill C-22. They feel that these proposed changes to the Patent Act related to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for the average Canadian consumer, and they believe this is another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the U.S. at the expense of average Canadians during the free trade negotiations. They ask Parliament to urge the Government to reject these proposals which they believe will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Since I have the floor, and to get on with the business of the House, I would like to move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy):

That the House move to the next item of business.