

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Milliken: It is Bill S-12, a private bill. After the time allotted for private members' business, we will have an adjournment debate, at which time the hon. member for Bourassa and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration or his parliamentary secretary will be speaking. The whole thing will take six minutes, and we can add this time to the debate on government Motion No. 28.

[English]

The Speaker: Does the parliamentary secretary have consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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PETITIONS

CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present four petitions today.

• (1040)

The first petition notes that the Canadian Human Rights Commission has decided to eliminate the work of about 40 investigative staff in six regional offices in Canada. The petitioners call upon Parliament to rescind the decision and restore the full functions of the commission's regional offices with a full complement of investigative and administrative staff.

The petition is signed by residents of London, Ontario.

THE SENATE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the second petition which I wish to present notes that the Senate is not elected and therefore is not accountable to the people of Canada. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to end this wasteful use of taxpayers' money and to abolish the Senate.

The petition is signed by residents of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

[Translation]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the third petition asks Parliament to act quickly to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all areas of federal jurisdiction and to adopt all measures necessary to recognize common law couples of the same sex in federal legislation.

[English]

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the final petition is signed by residents of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and New Brunswick.

The petition draws to the attention of the House the fact that the current Criminal Code denies people who are suffering from terminal or irreversible and debilitating illness the right to choose freely and voluntarily to end their lives with the assistance of a physician. Therefore, the petitioners call upon Parliament to amend the Criminal Code to ensure the right of all Canadians to die with dignity by allowing people with terminal or irreversible and debilitating illness the right to the assistance of a physician in ending their lives at a time of their choice, subject to strict safeguards to prevent abuse and to ensure that the decision is free, informed, competent and voluntary.

[Translation]

TAX SYSTEM

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, at a press conference I attended last week in Quebec City, I made a commitment to the members of seniors clubs in the Quebec City and Chaudière-Appalaches region to table a petition signed by 10 per cent of their most active members.

The petition asks the government to revise the entire tax system to make it more fair and equitable.

It criticizes the government for choosing to shift the tax burden onto people with low income. It criticizes the cuts made to the health, education and welfare sectors, through the Canada social transfer.

It contains a warning to the government and the Minister of Finance about their intention to review the old age pension plan in depth. The petitioners question the income test and make a number of suggestions to the minister. I hope he will consider them.

[English]

GRANDPARENTS RIGHTS

Mrs. Daphne Jennings (Mission—Coquitlam, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I present once again petitions on behalf of Canadians from Ontario and Quebec. They ask the government to recognize the need for an amendment to the Divorce Act to grant grandchildren access to the grandparents.

I am encouraged that I was given a commitment on behalf of the Minister of Justice yesterday in the House that the government will be dealing with my proposals for change. Grandparents and all seniors will continue their vigilance until we indeed have the promised change for our grandchildren.

The Speaker: I wish to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 33(2) because of the ministerial statement government orders will be extended by 23 minutes.