

They decry the fact that VIA is to be cut back and probably terminated in its operations. Indeed, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain, improve, and modernize VIA Rail service, particularly in those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economical, safe, convenient, environmentally sound, and energy efficient alternative to other means of transportation.

#### REVISION OF EXTRADITION LAWS

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure to present petitions to the House of Commons. These petitions are spearheaded by the Victims of Violence Society, by the Citizens United For Safety and Justice, and by 31 Members of Parliament from across Canada who are currently collecting signatures on a national petition which will be presented to the House over a period of several weeks. It is expected to accumulate tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of signatures.

It is my pleasure to present a petition today to the House of Commons, including 2,588 signatures mostly from the City of Peterborough and the County of Peterborough, which calls on the Government of Canada to revise its extradition laws in order that we may prevent Canada from becoming a safe haven for criminals. There are five known convicts from the United States in our institutions now.

This petition brings the total to over 36,000 signatures which have been presented to date into the House of Commons.

**Mr. Walter Van De Walle (St. Albert):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition, duly certified correct as to form and content, representing 2,160 Canadians from Alberta, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island.

These concerned citizens call upon the Government to revise the extradition laws to allow for the extradition of criminals immediately or after they have been fully dealt with by the Canadian penal system. These Canadians want the Government to take action to prevent Canada from becoming a sanctuary for criminals.

The number of signatures on petitions now stands at in excess of 38,000.

#### Petitions

[Translation]

#### OPPOSITION TO VIA RAIL SERVICES CUT-BACKS

**Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Madam Speaker, I also have the honour this afternoon to present petitions to this House, pursuant to Standing Order 36, from my constituents concerning VIA Rail services.

Madam Speaker, it is important to point out, with the report that VIA Rail will present to our Minister towards the end of June, how important these services are for us in the Gaspé peninsula.

[English]

The important matter for those of us on the government side, as well as for VIA administration when it decides what its new plan will be, is that my people at home wish to continue our service. We will go with the *status quo* now and go for better service after.

#### REVISION OF EXTRADITION LAWS

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour today, under the provisions of Standing Order 36, to present hundreds of petitions containing more than 5,000 signatures of people from Alberta, mainly the Calgary area and, more important, my riding of Calgary Southwest. These petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to revise its extradition laws.

I am pleased to join with these petitioners who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to revise the laws of Canada relating to extradition to allow the Minister of Justice of Canada to order the extradition of alleged or convicted criminals at any time after their apprehension in Canada, even during their period of incarceration for crimes committed in this country.

**Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island):** Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today in the House of Commons, under the provisions of Standing Order 36, to present a petition from a large number of people in the Province of Alberta. These petitions contain the signatures of 1,198 Albertans who call upon the Canadian Government to change our extradition laws.

These petitioners from the Province of Alberta ask Parliament to revise the laws of Canada relating to extradition to allow the Minister of Justice of Canada to order the extradition of alleged or convicted criminals at any time after their apprehension in Canada, even