

Routine Proceedings

JUSTICE

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I am pleased to present many petitions with hundreds and hundreds of signatures of residents of Canada to add to those already presented.

These petitioners feel that there are serious deficiencies in the criminal justice system. There are many vulnerable persons who have little protection in the current system. Women, children and disabled persons are at particular risk.

These petitioners request that Parliament recognize that crimes of violence against a person are serious and abhorrent to society and they ask that Parliament amend the Criminal Code of Canada, the Bail Reform Act of 1972, and the Parole Act.

YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour under Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of approximately 300 Canadian citizens who are concerned about the ongoing carnage in Yugoslavia. They call upon Parliament to bring justice to those responsible for crimes committed against humanity and to recognize without delay Croatia and Slovenia as independent sovereign states.

• (1250)

These petitioners are from Burlington, Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener, London, Rexdale, Toronto, Mississauga, Woodbridge, Etobicoke, Downsview and Richmond Hill.

At the same time they also commend the efforts of the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada for his efforts and requests to the Security Council to have the United Nations intervene in the Yugoslavian civil war and to send peacekeeping forces to Yugoslavia to prevent further carnage in that tragic conflict.

EAST TIMOR

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to present a petition which has been signed by several hundred Canadians from Vancouver Island, the lower mainland in B.C. and various points in Ontario. I am sure these people were shocked to hear what seemed to be the *de facto* blessing

which the external affairs minister gave to the illegal and brutal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia recently. They call on Parliament to condemn the Indonesian military occupation of East Timor, the genocide of the East Timorese people, and to publicly support the right of the East Timorese people to determine their own destiny by referendum and free elections and to support these causes in the United Nations and all other international arenas.

NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit on behalf of a number of residents in the constituency of Okanagan—Shuswap a petition to the government. These individuals are very concerned about Multinational Resources, a company that has just announced its intention to dam the North Thompson River and divert water from British Columbia down to California.

They are asking the federal government to state categorically that it will not permit our fresh rivers to be dammed and diverted into the U.S.A. They are very concerned that under the provisions of the free trade agreement the export of bulk water from Canada to the U.S. would essentially enshrine Canada's obligation to maintain such exports, and they are very, very worried about it.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): On another matter a number of constituents throughout the Okanagan—Shuswap are very concerned about the government's intention to cut back on the services of the RCMP throughout Canada. In particular, they ask the government to re-examine its decision to force provinces to increase funding for the RCMP while essentially withdrawing federal funding.

I know there has been some movement in that regard just recently. However I think the submission of these petitions at this time reinforces the very strong feelings that people have about the RCMP and its service in the communities throughout the Okanagan—Shuswap.

MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the merchant mariners of Canada who draw Parliament's attention to the critically important contribution made by the merchant mariners to the defence of Canada during World War II and the victory