

abandoned this policy at the trade deal bargaining table due to pressure from the United States film lobby.

This action shows the kind of humiliation Canadians are being subjected to as a result of this trade deal. The Government should be embarrassed that it has humiliated Canadians in this way. I urge Members of the House to support this Bill, the Government's original Bill, which is now my Private Members' Bill.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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PETITIONS

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 106 on behalf of a large number of constituents who are concerned that the present Government does not have a mandate from the people of Canada to conclude a trade deal with the United States.

They believe that the trade deal negotiated by the Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty since it removes the power of the Canadian Government to control effectively foreign ownership of our economy, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, or to equalize the opportunities between the regions of Canada.

Therefore, they are calling upon Parliament to dissolve now to enable the people of Canada an opportunity to accept or reject the proposed trade deal during a national general election.

HOUSING TAX ALLOWANCE IN YELLOWKNIFE

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present petitions signed by the residents of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, who are extremely concerned that pursuant to Bill C-23 with regard to the northern tax benefit, which was passed on December 19, 1986, the Town of Yellowknife and the residents of Yellowknife have been discriminated against because their housing benefit is to be valued at what is stated fair market value. However, since there is a vacancy rate of zero per cent, and has been for over a decade in Yellowknife, it is very difficult to establish a fair market value.

Therefore, whereas no viable developed rental market exists in Yellowknife and no fair market value can be calculated, these petitioners call upon Parliament to treat Yellowknife the same as the remainder of the Northwest Territories for purposes of the tax treatment of housing benefits in prescribed areas.

Petitions

IMMIGRATION—SPONSORING OF RELATIVES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present, according to Standing Order 106, a petition from a number of residents of Spadina and nearby ridings. The petitioners make two requests, one of which the Minister has promised to act upon but has not yet set a date. There has been no action on the other request.

The first request is that unmarried sons and daughters of all ages will be considered as members of the family class of immigrants and that married children and brothers and sisters in the assisted relative class would get 15 points instead of 10 points when assessed for immigration. That is the request upon which the Minister has promised to act but has not yet set a date.

The other request is with regard to the promise of the Minister of Justice two years ago to remove the unfair distinction between Canadian citizens and permanent residents of three years or more in order that both groups would have equal right to sponsor parents of every age.

Whereas these important promises have not yet been fulfilled, the undersigned citizens and residents of Canada call upon this House of Commons to ensure that the Government fulfills its promises now.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, the second petition is also from a number of residents of Spadina and other ridings nearby who point out that the Conservative Government, without a mandate from the Canadian people, is proposing a free trade agreement with the United States which would undermine our sovereignty, hinder the economic development of Canada, and hinder the freedom of Canadian Governments to take economic measures, and has failed to obtain secure access to the American market. Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve to allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

• (1520)

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in presenting a petition on behalf of some Pentecostal assemblies. This petition contains more than 50 signatures, mostly by Canadians from the Turner Valley area.

Your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child from conception and at all stages of development, with the exception of the extremely rare situation when an abortion is performed in order to save the life of the mother.

As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.