

Petitions

the 1981-1982 crop year. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The petitioners believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers are prepared to pay one times the Crow rate which, in essence, is no change?

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate, that being the Crow freight rate. And as duty bound these petitioners will ever pray. They hope the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) will, for a change, listen to them.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by 37 citizens, 30 of whom are members of the Wheat Pool from Saltcoats, Canora, Buchanan, Invermay, Melville and Kelvington. These petitioners exercise their right to present a grievance pointing out the amount of freight they paid to move export grain under the Crow rate. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade to the benefit of all of Canada. They, the undersigned, believe this is their fair contribution to the Canadian economy. Therefore, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) to maintain the present statutory grain rate for grain producers and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

• (1650)

[Translation]

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their ancient and unchallenged rights to present a grievance, with the assurance that your Honourable House will provide a remedy.

Humbly sheweth that:

Whereas western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year.

That this contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade of Canada.

Whereas the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy.

And whereas western farmers will pay one time Crow.

Wherefore the undersigned humbly call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by 37 Canadian citizens.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands. The other rows can be seated for the moment.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, as a Member from British Columbia and as one who was born on a grain farm in Saskatchewan, I have great pleasure in presenting the following petition. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, that is, there will be no change in these statutory rates. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker. I have the honour to present a petition from residents of Canada in towns such as Hallonquist, Neidpath, Hodgeville and Swift Current to the west of Spadina, and Ottawa, to the east of Spadina. This petition of the undersigned residents who now exercise their right to present a grievance humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade for Canada. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy. Furthermore, they will pay no more than one times the Crow rate, that is, no change from the present rate. Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain, that is the Crow rate and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray. This petition was signed on Tuesday, May 17, 1983.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from residents of Langham and other places in Saskatchewan. I will exercise my right to present it in Canada's other official language, because I think I can speak more quickly in that language.

[Translation]

To the Honourable the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled:

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada—

[English]

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Normally I would hear it at the end of the petition and not the beginning.

Mr. Waddell: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Blais: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: After the Hon. Member's petition, I will recognize the Minister.