

Petitions

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, as a mountain boy from the woods products industry of B.C. I am particularly proud to present a petition on behalf of a number of signers from both Saskatchewan and Ontario who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate and object to the Government's attempts to whipsaw and divide and rule as between farmers and industrial workers in Canada.

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Madam Speaker, it gives me great delight to be able to present this petition. Upon examination you will notice it is mostly from the Hutterite colony. Those of us who live out West appreciate the fantastic contribution to agriculture that they have made. They address the petition to the Hon. House of Commons in Parliament assembled. They exercise their right to petition, a right which, of course, dates back to the times even before the Crow rate. They show that the western Canadian farmers have contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. It is their wish that the western farmer retain the Crow rate as it presently is.

I am delighted to be able to present this particular petition.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I have another petition that I received from 63 residents in Kamsack, Verigin, Churchbridge and Togo requesting to exercise their right to present a grievance and asking that the Parliament of Canada agree that they shall continue to pay one times the Crow and that Parliament maintain the present statutory grain rates, and as in duty bound these petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of this great country who petition the House with regard to the Crow rate. They point out that farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain during the crop year 1981-82. This grain contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. These farmers therefore feel that they have made a fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that the Crow rate should not be changed.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition from a number of Canadian citizens mainly from Ernfold and Chaplin in Saskatchewan. This petition asks that Parliament give consideration to the fact that Canadian farmers have paid their fair share of the transportation costs not only last year but ever since the Crow rate was established. They are contributing heavily, mainly over \$6 billion, to the balance of trade in the past year. They believe that is a fair contribution and that they should pay no more than one times Crow rate.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, your petitioners, acting in the tradition which I believe goes back to the Magna Carta, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will every pray.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I also have a petition signed by residents of communities along the rail line to Churchill. In their petition they humbly pray that the Government retain the statutory Crowsnest rate and ensure upgrading and improvement of services in all regions of Canada, including areas ignored by the Pepin-Gilson report.

They also ask that the Government of Canada, through Parliament, make public equity investment in the railways as proposed by the New Democratic Party caucus.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from some 41 residents of the area around Weyburn in southern Saskatchewan who petition the House of Commons to take note of the great contribution that agriculture and farmers have made to the balance of trade in this country. They say that the farmers' fair contribution is being well recognized in the Crow rate. They petition the House and the Parliament of Canada to maintain the present statutory grain rate.

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, I have just recently received a petition that I have been requested to present to you from some 33 or 36 petitioners from such places in Saskatchewan as Cut Knife, Maymont, Biggar, North Battleford and Battleford itself, Glenbush and Rabbit Lake.

The petitioners point out to you and to the Parliament of Canada the inequities in the proposals that would change the Crow rate. They point out that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year; that this grain in turn contributed some \$6.3 billion in the balance of trade; that they believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy; that western farmers will pay one times Crow, meaning no change. 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. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to place before the House today a petition primarily from residents of Gravelbourg, but not just farmers; this includes doctors, businessmen, contractors and a variety of other people who signed the petition. It is addressed to the Honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled and says that the petitioners are residents of Canada and have the right to present a grievance. 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 Canadian economy and that western farmers should pay one times Crow, Madam Speaker, which means no change. 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.