

averaging for farmers as recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in its report on the White Paper on tax reform, stage one.

PROPOSED FREE TRADE

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from residents of the City of Ottawa who note that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) had actually promised in the course of bilateral trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised.

Whereas the trade agreement negotiated by the Mulroney Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interest of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities amongst the regions; and that the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future—

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Is it now permissible for Members to give speeches when submitting their petitions?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon (Mr. Epp) will complete his petition, please.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): I appreciate that the presentation of petitions should be fairly brief. I am trying to do that.

Since the agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States, these petitioners call upon the House of Commons to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject this trade agreement in a general election.

DESIGNATION REGARDING NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCES

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and the responsibility to present a petition, duly certified as conforming to Standing Order 106, signed by approximately 140 residents mainly of Fort Frances, Ontario. I am sure this will be the first of many such petitions.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to redress the flagrant inequities that have been created between residents of different northern isolated communities by the introduction of the northern residents tax allowance whereby some communities are designated and residents receive tax breaks of up to \$2,500 a year, while neighbouring communities, sometimes within a kilometre, are not designated. Of course this leads to significant inequities and grave economic distortions.

The Budget—Mr. Boudria

PROHIBITION REGARDING KNIVES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present several petitions from a number of citizens in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland. They state that the incidents of crimes including murder, robbery and sexual assault with knives is on the increase in all major cities across Canada. The federal Criminal Code allows citizens to carry knives for self defence, which often results in altercations where self defence is claimed.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to amend the federal Criminal Code to prohibit the carrying of knives by citizens in public places. The only exceptions would be those where a knife was an integral part of legitimate work or is being carried for religious reasons, such as with the Sikh religion.

PROPOSED FREE TRADE

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a number of petitions from electors in the City of Windsor, the presentation of which I will make as brief as possible, commensurate with saving embarrassment to the Government concerning the signatories' plea that this Parliament dissolve immediately to permit an election on the issue of free trade.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Roger Clinch (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall all questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I wish to inform the House that, because of ministerial statements, Government Orders will be extended by 60 minutes, beginning at one o'clock.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Monday, February 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

And on the amendment of Mr. Garneau: