

places like Mississauga, Guelph, Cheltenham, Bramalea, and Etobicoke, all of which are in Ontario and around Toronto.

Since the Government has no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the U.S., since the agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and would undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the U.S., and whereas the trade agreement denies Canadians the promised secure access to the U.S. market, the undersigned petitioners pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada an opportunity to accept or reject the trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present, on behalf of a number of constituents from the community of Shellbrook, a petition which suggests that the trade agreement threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty and our policy freedom to determine our own economic future and undermines our ability to build a distinct society.

Consequently, the petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement through a national general election.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition on behalf of residents of southern Ontario, particularly the City of Guelph, who protest that the Conservative Government does not have a mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the U.S.

● (1120)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised later in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised. However, the trade agreement negotiated by the Government in fact threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control foreign ownership effectively, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities among the regions.

For these and other reasons these petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and give them the opportunity to reject the free trade agreement in a federal general election.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[English]

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the understanding that we have, I now call Government Orders and recognize the Hon. Member for Windsor West (Mr. Gray).

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

On the Order: Second reading and Reference:

May 24, 1988—Mr. Crosbie—Bill C-130, an Act to implement the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States of America.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I believe that a number of points should be made in order to demonstrate that Bill C-130 is out of order and cannot be considered by the House in the form in which it has been presented. However, I want to raise at this stage a point of order dealing specifically with the omnibus nature of Bill C-130. It is my intention, once argument has been made by myself and others on the omnibus nature of Bill C-130, to raise other points which I think are valid and deserve to be accepted by you, Sir, as Speaker of this House.

I refer specifically, although not exhaustively, to points which would include the fact that Bill C-130 intends to amend measures before this House which have not yet been adopted and also to the issue of whether or not Bill C-130 is a disguised and improper way of amending the Constitution of this country. However, at this stage I am raising a point of order specifically about what I submit is the unacceptable omnibus nature of this Bill.

I want to point out that Bill C-130 consists of 123 pages. It would appear to attempt to amend 27 existing federal laws and to compel all provinces and municipalities to make all their present and future laws consistent with it. It purports to be a measure that is presented to the House to implement the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

The parliamentary implications of dealing with a Bill of the kind before us are very serious, both for the orderly consideration of the Bill itself and for future legislative procedure on similar Bills.

I submit that the starting point for your consideration, Sir, of the issue as to whether or not this Bill is of an unacceptable