

Questions on the Order Paper

restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

[Translation]

RIDEAU HALL—PUBLIC'S ACCESS TO GROUNDS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, again I have the duty and privilege of presenting petitions signed by about 1,000 constituents of the Ottawa region and elsewhere, visitors to the national capital, who want to utilize their right to present their grievance to this House, namely that the decision to close Rideau Hall grounds was made by the National Capital Commission, the Department of Public Works, the RCMP and the office of the Governor General without prior notice. The closure of this attractive and tranquil park affects thousands of visitors to the capital from across the country who want to have access to Rideau Hall, a unique institution, as a symbol of the trust, openness and democracy of which Canadians are so justly proud, and residents from the entire national capital region who have used and enjoyed the grounds of Rideau Hall and who, while recognizing the security concerns that prompted the closure decision, cannot accept a blanket closure of the 120-acre park to public access.

Wherefore the undersigned petitioners humbly call upon Parliament to reconsider this decision by consulting a group of citizens representing the large and growing opposition in order that a *modus vivendi* be created that would satisfy both the Government and the public.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present, under Standing Order 106, a petition signed by a number of western Canadians who are very concerned that the federal Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy the necessary prescription drugs. They believe the proposed measure will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. The petitioners feel the proposals of the federal Government will result in higher costs to various provincial government drug plans as well. Therefore, the petitioners simply call upon the Government to reject the proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST OPERATIONAL PLAN

Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond—Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, I also have the duty to present to the House a petition signed by many of my constituents and others from a number of other ridings. The petition relates to the Canada Post operational plan which, of course, has been strongly denounced.

The petitioners maintain that the new Post Canada operational plan creates two classes of citizens as a result of the installation of permanent superboxes in both urban and rural areas, that the closure of rural post offices deprive citizens from a unique federal presence, and reduces postal services in rural areas. Finally, the increase in postal rates creates a prejudice.

All petitioners humbly call upon this House to urge Canada Post management to withdraw their operational plan so as to guarantee rural postal services, which are essential.

I have another petition concerning the same issue and it has been signed by at least fifty Canadian taxpayers who again strongly denounce the Canada Post operational plan because it is prejudicial to many people, particularly those who live in small rural communities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, another petition signed by Canadian taxpayers from Laval-des-Rapides who also strongly denounce the Government's initiative aimed at closing down a number of post offices and reducing services.

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have two sets of petitions I would like to table today, both of which have been certified correct under Standing Order 106. The first petition is actually in two parts. It is from the residents of the community of Thunder Bay as well as Kakabeka Falls and Toronto and Willowdale. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the proposals regarding the prescription drug Act and to ask the Government to change its mind with regard to that legislation.

TRANSPORTATION—ECONOMIC REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the second petition was forwarded to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin). The petition is in respect to the whole question of deregulation of the transport industry in Canada. I am particularly referring to Bill C-18. The petitioners are asking that it be withdrawn and that public convenience and necessity remain as a fundamental factor in the development of transportation policy in this country.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.