

*Petitions*

from the community of Windsor. They are reminding us that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) has announced that workers who are laid off after March 31 of this year will have their severance pay deducted from their unemployment insurance benefits, thus effectively eliminating the benefit of the severance package to the worker.

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of residents of Canada who are asking Parliament to address the situation in which employees who are now laid off will lose part of their unemployment insurance pay if they had earned severance pay during their past employment.

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a similar petition from a number of Canadians who are protesting the mean-spirited changes in the Unemployment Insurance Act. They humbly pray that Parliament will address their concerns and are presenting this petition despite the mean spirit of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and his colleagues.

● (1510)

**Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the point of view of several Canadians on the matter of the very damaging changes being made in the UIC. Clearly a lot of Canadians are very concerned about this. I am presenting to the Government their petition, namely that all laid-off employees keep their severance pay and receive their unemployment insurance benefits without deduction of severance pay.

*[Translation]*

UNIVERSITY OF SHERBROOKE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead):** Mr. Speaker, 960 residents of Fleurimont, in my riding, wish to avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present this petition to the House and to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), acting through the Medical Research Council of Canada, to grant the School of Medicine at the University of Sherbrooke the financial assistance it needs to maintain its level of research and rate of development.

PRICE INCREASE OF GASOLINE AND HEATING OIL

**Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Duvernay):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting a genuine petition with 2,836 names of residents of the Province of Quebec. This petition was signed by people who, through the program *Bonjour Montréal* broadcast on CJMS, are protesting the excessive and unnecessary increase in the price of gas at the pump and the price of home heating oil.

Your petitioners humble pray that Parliament ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté) to intervene and settle this matter as soon as possible.

I herewith present this petition and urge the Government to respond to the request therein.

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*[English]*

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to point out that the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) said he was presenting a petition on behalf of thousands. He handed in one piece of paper. The names of eight people were on the paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The combination of Wednesday and the end of the session is deadly.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would suggest that the Minister table the similar petition that came from his National Economic Conference.

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## IMMIGRATION ACT, 1976

MEASURE TO AMEND

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-232, an Act to amend the Immigration Act, 1976 (determination of refugee status).

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the said Bill?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Heap:** This Bill formerly known as C-219, requires that all refugee applicants in Canada should have the opportunity, if they wish it, of an oral hearing before the Refugee Status Advisory Committee. At present the law does not provide for that. That is one of the reasons we have many thousands who are waiting to have their status determined. This Bill will not only provide fairer opportunity for judgment by the Refugee Status Advisory Committee but will also shorten the time of waiting to the benefit of both the refugee claimants and the staff of the Department.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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SUPPLEMENTARY FISCAL EQUALIZATION  
PAYMENTS 1982-87 ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-39, an Act to provide for the making of supplementary fiscal equalization payments to certain provinces for the period April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1987.