

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, November 16, 1987

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government response to 62 petitions bearing the following numbers: 332-3135, 332-3149 to 332-3190 inclusive, 332-3199, 332-3208, 332-3221, 332-3225, 332-3226, 332-3231, 332-3262, 332-3271, 332-3278, 332-3280, 332-3312, 332-3315, 332-3329 to 332-3334 inclusive and 332-3337.

[*English*]

OPPOSITION TO CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which was collected from all across Ontario along with a great many other petitions on Friday. It deals with the trade deal with the United States.

Those who signed the petition feel that the trade agreement negotiated by this Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty. They feel as well that it would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future. They also feel that the trade agreement did not succeed in obtaining the secure access to the U.S. market which was the key objective—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member knows the rules and I think he is going a little beyond what is necessary to describe what is in the petition.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, it is just that this petition deals with such an explosive and important topic that I wish to outline everything in it.

In any event, those who have signed the petition come from all parts of my constituency, all parts of the City of Windsor itself, from La Salle, from Amherstburg and from a great many parts of Essex County.

I would note the last part of the petition which is that the petitioners call upon the Government to give the people of Canada a chance to speak out in a general election.

FERMI II NUCLEAR REACTOR—REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): The second petition I have is a petition which frankly has been much longer in the collecting. It has a total of 4,000 signatures and deals with the question of Fermi II.

Fermi II is a nuclear reactor situated very close to Canada which has a terrible accident record. The people who have signed this petition make it very clear that their position and the position of the great majority—

Mr. Speaker: I again hesitate to interrupt the same Hon. Member, but everyone in the House knows the rule. Hon. Members are permitted to make a brief statement describing the petition but not to argue the issue to which the petition may well be addressed. The Hon. Member will complete his remarks.

Mr. Langdon: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I say, the petition is signed by 4,000 people of my constituency. It states strongly that there is a desire for people on the Canadian side to have a chance to review this nuclear reactor for its safety provisions before it is put to 100 per cent capacity.

• (1110)

The signatures on the petition come particularly from Amherstburg, Malden and La Salle. They also come from other parts of Essex County because they too would be severely affected by anything which happened to this nuclear reactor.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED TAX REFORM

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from constituents of mine in Thunder Bay—Nipigon and other residents of the City of Thunder Bay protesting the White Paper proposals for tax change. They are particularly unhappy that the tax reform proposals do not change the tax system already unfair to the average Canadian family while giving wealthy Canadians earning over \$100,000 a year a tax cut. They also note that 60,000 profitable corporations do not have to pay any income tax at all.

The petitioners call upon the House of Commons to reject these proposed tax changes, to reject the tax on food, another of their concerns, and to restore full indexation to the personal