

Petitions

bound your petitioners would ever pray. This petition has been signed on Tuesday, May 17, 1983.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a petition to table from 33 Canadians, most of whom are farmers, and about half of whom are members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. The impact of Bill C-155 may reduce the incomes of farmers in British Columbia by 30 per cent or more and take billions away from farmers on the Prairies. The 31.1 million tonne cap and Crow rate change are widely opposed and may damage the future of the Ridley Island grain development in Prince Rupert.

To the Honourable House of Commons and all its Members in Parliament assembled the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, particularly of Saskatchewan, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy. Western farmers will pay one times the Crow, which means no change.

Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain or Crow rate and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray. Those petitioners are from Maymont, Gravelbourg, and Guybourg, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition to the House on behalf of quite a number, about 70 I think, citizens of Canada, living in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Many of them are farmers, some are not, who present this petition. To the House of Commons and Parliament assembled, the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada—and I emphasize that for the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais)—who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. That is a lot. That is really a lot. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair—

● (1740)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member will confine his remarks to the petition, please.

Mr. Deans: I am sorry. I was just commenting to my colleague, who is sitting beside me. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy, and that western farmers will pay their share.

Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament and, in particular, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin), who rarely listens, to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 37 residents from Yorkton; Melville and Canora, Saskatchewan. Some of them are farmers, some are teachers, carpenters and so on.

To the Honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled, the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow, which means no change.

Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I again have a—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Gimaiel) on a point of order.

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, I would simply like the Chair to be given the opportunity of ascertaining whether those who signed the petition, were at that time duly informed of the use to which it would be put in this House, namely to paralyse the workings of the House, or whether they were simply told that their views would be put before the House of Commons. Because if indeed the people who signed those petitions intended to paralyse the workings of the House, Mr. Speaker, I am prevented as a member of this House from performing the duties, for which I have been elected. This is my point of order. I would therefore like the Chair to ascertain from the people who signed the petitions whether they were informed that by signing those petitions, they would hinder my work as a Member of Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Under our Standing Orders, obviously, the Clerk of the House will be dealing with the signatures on the petitions, because it is his duty under such Standing Orders to report later to the House. As Deputy Speaker, I am not in a position to now verify the signatures. The Clerk will look after that later on.

Mr. Gimaiel: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. Am I to understand that you are assuring me that the Clerk of the House will check with some of the people who signed the petitions whether they had been informed beforehand that their signatures would be used to deprive me of my right to speak in this House? I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if you