

*Petitions*

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Madam Speaker, I have another petition. This petition is from some 33 ordinary Canadians such as Helen Beech, Leonard Lovestone—

**Madam Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member is not allowed to cite the names on the petition. Let him just tell the House briefly what the petition is all about. That is all that is allowed.

**Mr. Keeper:** I will keep the petition anonymous, Madam Speaker. It is from some 33 ordinary Canadians from western communities who have exercised their ancient right of petition in the House in order to present a grievance, and their grievance is that the Government is moving in an arbitrary fashion to remove an ancient and historic right, a right which they feel is central to the Confederation bargain that brought this country together, and they wish that the House would impress upon the Government the need for fair treatment and that they be allowed to earn their livelihood in a just and fair manner—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I could see that the Hon. Member was ad libbing. Hon. Members are allowed to read only the title of the petition, and it seemed as if the Hon. Member was going far beyond the title. I would just like to remind Hon. Members that in presenting a petition, they are allowed to read only the title.

**Mr. Keeper:** The Canadians to whom I made reference petition the House with regard to a grievance that deals with the statutory Crow rate, and they wish that the Government would treat their economic affairs justly.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Madam Speaker, I present a petition that is signed by 36 people. The subject matter of this petition is based on the fact that the western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow rate in the year 1981-82 and that this grain in turn has contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that the western farmers will pay only one times Crow, in other words no change.

These petitioners humbly pray and humbly call upon the Parliament of Canada to maintain as it is the present statutory rate, which is, of course, the Crow rate. I am very pleased to present this petition on behalf of these people from small towns throughout the Province of Saskatchewan, including many from my own riding.

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Madam Speaker, I am not rising on a supplementary, I am rising to pretend—present—

**Some Hon. Members:** Pretend is the right word.

**Mr. Blaikie:** I am rising to present a separate and independent petition on behalf of 30 or 40 residents of Saskatchewan from the communities of Consul, Fox Valley, Maple Creek and Sceptre. These Canadians want to exercise their right to present a grievance and humbly point out 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. They believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, or no change.

● (1550)

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners ever pray, Madam Speaker.

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, while I fully intend to follow your admonition and simply read this petition, I cannot forgo the opportunity of saying that I wish the Leaders of the other Parties, even those without them right now, would join with us on these petitions.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise the 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—I say to my Conservative friends to my right. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, which means no change.

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

**Mr. Thacker:** Madam Speaker, I have a point of order. I am pleased to see that the Leader of the NDP has finally realized that the West is alive, in contradistinction to that Party's position on the Constitution, the right to property and the National Energy Program.

**Madam Speaker:** That, of course, is not a point of order.

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Madam Speaker, I have a petition from the people of the town of Harris, Saskatchewan, the town that has had a railroad service since 1908. This petition is addressed to the Hon. House of Commons in Parliament assembled and says that the residents of Harris do now exercise their right to present a grievance, and they humbly sheweth that western grain farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year and that this grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that it is the farmers' fair contribution to the economy, and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, which means no change. It goes on:

Wherefore we, 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.

I am happy to present this petition to the House of Commons.