

*Petitions*

Bay who point out that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States.

They say that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised, in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations, that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised but that in fact the agreement negotiated threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control effectively foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities between the regions.

They say that this agreement would in fact deny Canadians the policy freedom to determine our own economic future.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege, honour, and responsibility to present a petition signed by residents of R.R. 1, Blenheim; R.R. 1, Chatham; Windsor, and Timmins, Ontario. These petitioners are putting forward the proposition that the Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States.

They further point out that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised, in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations, that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised.

In view of the fact that the proposed trade agreement not only denies Canadians the secure access to U.S. markets which was the key objective in these negotiations, but indeed threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs, these petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have petitions here from a number of Canadians concerned about the trade arrangement that has been made between the Government and the United States.

They point out that the Government had no mandate for such, that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised but that the trade agreement threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty, and that it not only denies Canadians secure access to the U.S. market which was the key objective in these negotiations but threatens the loss of hundreds and thousands of Canadian jobs.

Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the

opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues, have a petition from a number of residents of Canada who have called upon Parliament assembled, indicating that in their view the Conservative Party has no mandate to conclude a free trade agreement, that such an agreement as has been signed threatens elements of Canadian control over our destiny, denies Canada the ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States, and threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs.

In addition, there is not—

**Mr. Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt when any Member is presenting a petition. However, the Hon. Member will know, as will all Hon. Members, that the presentation of a petition can be accompanied by words describing the petition and from where it comes, but I think the Hon. Member is getting well into the field of argument now. I will have an application from someone wanting to comment and that will take up a lot of time. I would ask the Hon. Member to close off his remarks.

**Mr. Langdon:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I was quoting from the petition, which concludes with a call from the petitioners for Parliament to dissolve to allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement. This petition has been signed by people from Nipigon, Red Rock and Thunder Bay as well as from other parts of northern Ontario.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I, too have a petition to present. It is signed by people from all across the Province of Ontario; from Fort Francis and Kenora in the northwest, to Welland, Burlington, Hamilton and Guelph in the south. It is signed as well by people from Geraldton, Red Lake, Atikokan, and Thunder Bay.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and responsibility to file a petition signed by people from Thunder Bay, Dorion, and Nipigon.

These people say that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised, and that the trade agreement negotiated by the Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control effectively foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities between the regions.

Therefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and to allow the people of