

so, largely only through negotiations between the heads of state.

Whereas this agreement will hinder Canada's ability to develop our regional, cultural and economic needs and not only denies Canadians secure access to the U.S. market but threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve to allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

IMMIGRATION—SPONSORING OF RELATIVES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition from residents of Spadina and the City of Toronto with respect to the immigration policy. On one point the petition has met a promise of the Minister to be granted next month concerning unmarried sons and daughters of all ages, but the second point of the petition is that it is now two years since the then Minister of Justice promised to delete or remove the unfair distinction between Canadian citizens and permanent residents of three years or more when they are sponsoring their parents. Canadian citizens have a right to sponsor them at less than 60 years, which the residents do not. This promise has not yet been fulfilled, the distinction not removed. Therefore, the petitioners ask Parliament to ensure that the Government will now fulfill its promise.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present a duly certified petition from a number of Canadian residents pointing out that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States. While the Prime Minister promised that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised, the trade agreement negotiated does in fact threaten the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities between the regions.

The petitioners point out that the agreement would deny Canada policy freedom and secure access and will result in a loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs. Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament—

● (1120)

Mr. Speaker: I want to remind Hon. Members that a short explanation of a petition is one thing but a long argument in favour of the petition is something else again. I know the Hon. Member will want to conclude his remarks.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve to allow the people of Canada

Petitions

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

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition under the provision of Standing Order 106.

This petition is from residents of Winnipeg who say that the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and undermine our ability to build a society different from that of the U.S. Therefore, they 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. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition complying with Standing Order 106 from residents of Canada from Glenbain, Saskatchewan and Neidpath, Saskatchewan who point out that the Government had no mandate to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States, that the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) promise that sovereignty would not be affected has not been kept. The petition goes on to point out that the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty is being affected by this deal because future Governments will not be able—

Mr. Speaker: Again, I hesitate to interrupt but the rule is quite clear. The House wants to hear what the petition is asking for, not all of the arguments that might be mustered in favour of it. There is some complaint obviously in the House this morning with respect to the length of explanations and I think the Chair has to recognize that. The Hon. Member will conclude his remarks.

Mr. Althouse: The petitioners list eight or ten very cogent arguments as to why they are opposed to the free trade agreement, Mr. Speaker, but the main thrust of their argument is that Parliament should be dissolved to call an election so that Canadians may make the decision since they have not yet been granted such an opportunity.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY DEVICES IN AUTOMOBILES

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel—Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table petitions signed by residents of Trois-Pistoles, Saint-Fabien, Saint-Cyprien, Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Saint-Arsène, Biencourt, Lac-des-Aigles, Cabano, Rivière-Bleue, Dégelis, Saint-Éleuthère and Rivière-du-Loup.

The highway safety campaign continues in Quebec because the petitioners hope for changes and they are aware that since 1974, the highway safety regulations allow the installation of air bags for drivers of passenger cars and they believe that this device would reduce the number of serious injuries on the roads.