

Petitions

Prince Albert and the Village of Birch Hills. The citizens are concerned about the cut-backs in family allowance and the tax increases. They call upon the House to reinstate full indexation of universal family allowance and rescind unfair tax increases.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present two petitions from the City of Regina. The petitioners call upon the House to maintain full indexation of family allowance and to rescind unfair tax increases, for all of which they and I are duty bound forever to pray.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions, both from residents of British Columbia. The first is from Women Against the Federal Budget. It has been distributed by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. It points out that children are everyone's responsibility and that all parents should receive Government assistance whose value is at least as high or higher than the present family allowance level. Therefore, they strongly oppose the budget proposals to reduce the cost of living protection for family allowance and demand that these proposals be withdrawn as soon as possible.

My second petition is also signed by citizens of British Columbia. They call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of universal family allowance and rescind the unfair tax increases, pointing out that these tax increases will fall unfairly upon the people who can least afford them and that the accelerating cut-backs in child welfare benefits—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is becoming somewhat of a speech.

[*Translation*]

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I have the honour of presenting a number of petitions on behalf of the undersigned who belong to unions including the Canadian Paper Workers Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Whereas the reduction in family allowances and increases in taxes are unfair and intolerable, faced with these presents from the Budget—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

[*English*]

I have a feeling that the Member is reading the petition instead of summarizing it.

[*Translation*]

Ms. McDonald: Mr. Speaker, I have a large number of petitions. I have grouped them and I will do this very quickly.

The undersigned humbly ask that full indexation of family allowances be reinstated and that unfair tax increases be revoked.

[*English*]

The second petition comes from a number of petitioners in my own riding. I have received a very large number of them which I have grouped together. These petitioners point out that the cut-back in family allowance is unfair and unbearable in the face of budget hand-outs such as a tax-free capital gains give a way of up to \$500,000 and a greater RRSP deduction for high-income recipients. Accordingly, the petitioners call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of the universal family allowance and to rescind unfair tax increases.

Third, I have a number of petitions from east Toronto, from a variety of areas. The petitioners point out that the deindexation of the universal family allowance and the massive cut-backs in public support for child benefits are unfair and that they are an attack on women and families—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the Hon. Member is still reading the petition. I take it that she is presenting petitions on one subject. She knows that she should simply indicate where they are from. It is supposed to be a brief presentation.

Ms. McDonald: I have a number of petitions on this subject but they are slightly different. They are from all over the country and point out different matters. I am summarizing—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member is entitled to present the petition and what it prays for. To put the comments, preambles or "whereases" in advance of the petition by means of a speech is entirely out of order.

Ms. McDonald: These petitioners call upon the House of Commons to reinstate full indexation of the family allowance.

[*Translation*]

I have the honour of presenting another petition in French, in which the undersigned ask that full indexation of family allowances be reinstated.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is from residents of Ottawa.

● (1530)

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, I now have another number of petitions from citizens of my own riding, again on indexation. They are asking—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. These are all petitions on the same subject as far as I can tell. The Hon. Member should know that all she has to do now is to indicate she has other petitions to table which should take no more than about 10 seconds.

Ms. McDonald: Mr. Speaker, next I have petitions, again on the family allowance, you are quite correct, which come from Ontario residents, in Simcoe and Brantford, demanding full indexation of the family allowance.

The next one I have, with a good 10 signatures—

Mr. Speaker: Further petitions.