

Petitions

The Government is withdrawing its contribution of \$2.9 billion to the unemployment insurance fund, leaving the financing to workers and employers, which means an increase in premiums for the employers and employees.

The Government is making other changes to the unemployment insurance system. These changes, along with the closure of CFB Summerside, will mean the loss of millions of dollars to the economy of Prince Edward Island.

PROPOSED NATIONAL SALES TAX—DANCE AND MUSIC LESSONS

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present two positions today. The first one is from constituents in my riding of Prince Edward—Hastings.

They are concerned with the possible tax on fees for students of music and dance. They feel that such a tax would result in the deprivation of some students of instruction in these areas. They ask that students obtaining instruction in dance and music be exempt from the payment of such tax.

NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, the other petition is from constituents of Prince Edward—Hastings as well. It concerns the cancellation of the Government's promises to proceed with a national child care program.

The petitioners have been shouldering the responsibility for a local program in their community. They have been funding child care centres through various money-making activities such as bake sales and raffles to make child care possible.

The petitioners are asking for the development of a federal policy with appropriate and on-going funding to support the Canadian child care system.

VIA RAIL SERVICE

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions on behalf of the constituents living in the London—Sarnia VIA Rail corridor. These constituents come from the Town of Strathroy, the Village of Watford, Wyoming and the Town of

Petrolia and other communities within the constituency. As well, they are signed by various municipal officials.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to maintain and upgrade VIA's services across Canada and offer the Canadian people an alternative to highway congestion and airport delays.

CLOSURE OF CFB LONDON

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, in addition to those seven petitions regarding VIA Rail I have the honour to present two more petitions concerning the Canadian Forces Base in London. The petitioners call upon Parliament to rescind its recent decision to close CFB London and to reassure the people of London that CFB London will remain open.

• (1550)

VIA RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn I am going to try one last time. I rise under Standing Order 36 with a petition duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. It is a petition to the Government, asking that it live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail, to abandon plans for further cuts to VIA's budget, and to provide the necessary resources to allow VIA to operate as a modern, effective transportation company rather than as a museum.

It is my last chance before the Government makes its decision. Please do consider wisely.

CLOSURE OF CFB LONDON

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions containing several hundred names concerning the Canadian Forces Base London. The Canadian Forces Base London represents an annual direct boost to the London economy of more than \$60 million and several millions more in direct funds.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind its recent decision to close Canadian Forces Base London, and reassure the people of London that the Canadian Forces base London will remain open.

UTILIZATION OF PORT OF CHURCHILL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the Port of Churchill. This petition is signed by residents of Flin Flon, Brandon, Beauséjour, Stonewall and Winnipeg. They indicate that they believe the Port of Churchill