

Petitions

balance of trade which created employment for all Canadians and strengthen the economy generally.

The undersigned believe that these farmers have made a fair contribution, contrary to the Government's proposal, to the Canadian economy. Those western farmers will pay in a voluntary and forthright manner one times Crow, which is essentially no change.

Wherefore the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray. The petition is dated Tuesday, March 17, 1983.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the Hon. Members in the fourth and fifth rows be seated. We are dealing with the third row. The Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant).

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured and duty bound to present to the House of Commons a petition signed by residents of the Province of Saskatchewan and the communities of Fosston, Lintlaw and Clair, among others, all Members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and all farmers.

Your petitioners share the sentiments expressed in an editorial in yesterday's *Toronto Star* which called on Ottawa to back off. The petitioners feel that the federal Government has no right to impose such fundamental social and economic changes on a region of Canada without the approval of the provincial Governments most directly affected.

The petitioners, or the undersigned, are residents of Canada who now exercise their right to present a grievance. The petition 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 of Canada. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy. These farmers state that they will pay one times Crow, that is, no change to the present rate.

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

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition on the Crow rate which has been sent to me by the Members of the Lutheran Church in Langham, Saskatchewan, which happens to be the first Lutheran Church in Saskatchewan.

To the Honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their 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. 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 Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray. The petition is duly signed by members of the Lutheran Church in Langham, Saskatchewan.

● (1640)

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): I rise to present a petition, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: Come on over, Jim.

Mr. Peterson: This petition reads that the undersigned citizens of Canada humbly pray the NDP hijack of Parliament will cease in order that we can get on with the business of renovating Canada's western rail system. Western producers need and deserve a new rail system which will enable them to get their products to market, the construction of which will create thousands of jobs for Canada's unemployed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Speak more slowly, Jim.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my petition is signed by farmers who understand and who have had to live and work with the Crow rate for many, many years. During the long winter they have had a chance to sign petitions to present to the House of Commons. In their petition these farmers who are concerned about the Crow rate talk about the \$131 million which they paid to export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-1982 crop year. This grain in turn has contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. It is understood and felt by these farmers that that is their fair contribution to the Canadian economy. These farmers also believe they should be paying the Crow rate in the future and that there should be no change. These farmers, not Members of Parliament, not Liberal Members of Parliament humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain and present the present statutory grain or the Crow rate, and as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I would ask Hon. Members to refrain from editorial comments. I ask that they simply state their petitions.

The Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young).

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 11 Canadian farmers who are petitioning Parliament assembled, and the petition prays that 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,