

Petitions

[English]

The individuals come from Parry Sound, Burlington, Downsview, St. Catharines, and the surrounding area. These Canadians who signed these petitions are requesting that the Government abandon its course on Bill C-22.

Canadians are questioning the advisability of moving to reform the Patent Act which will have the ultimate effect of increasing prescription drugs for Canadians in need. The petitioners request that the Government recognize the harm that this will create, and that if it is to reform the Patent Act, it do so in a way that the needy and sick will have accessible and affordable drugs in Canada.

REQUEST FOR PROTEST TO EL SALVADOR—MIGUEL RIVAS
HERNANDEZ

Mr. Peter Peterson (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which I have the honour to present on behalf of constituents in Hamilton West and other residents of Hamilton—Wentworth, who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to protest to the Government of El Salvador the disappearance of Mr. Miguel Rivas Hernandez. They demand that our Government stop bilateral aid to El Salvador until arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture are practised no more by the security forces of that country.

● (1230)

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have a pile of petitions to present today, although none of them are from Edmonton, which in a sense is not surprising. They are from Melfort, Saskatchewan; Lorette, Manitoba; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Regina, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Pembina; Gimli, Manitoba; New Westminster, Aldergrove, British Columbia; Calgary, Alberta; Langley, Clearbrook, Vetter Crossing, Chilliwack, Mount Lehman, Vancouver, Kelowna, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and Port Coquitlam, British Columbia; as well as from McBride which is near my own constituency; and from Prince George and Quesnel, British Columbia.

The petitioners from all these communities indicate their displeasure with the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs which they believe will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy those necessary prescription drugs. They therefore call upon the Government to stop proceeding in this way.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have another short petition to present. It contains a list of individuals from Baie de Verde, Newfoundland. These people are all fishermen. They indicate that fishermen in Newfoundland really do require unemployment insurance benefits to get along for a certain portion of the year. They are concerned

about what they perceive to be the Government's plan to implement changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act which would restrict fishermen access to these benefits. Obviously, they are saying that the Government should reject any recommendation from the Forget Commission that would deprive fishermen of their rights.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FAIR ORAL HEARINGS BEFORE REFUGEE
BOARD

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and pleasure to present today two petitions to this honourable House.

The first is signed by the residents of communities such as Toronto, Brampton, Nepean, Willowdale, Thunder Bay, Gloucester, Ottawa, Sudbury, and also residents of Edmonton and Calgary in the Province of Alberta, as well as residents of such picturesque communities as Blezard Valley and Val Caron, who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ensure that the Government and Parliament enact legislation that will embody the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of refugee claimants before a board independent of the Immigration Commission.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the second petition I have to present is also duly certified and is on a somewhat different topic. It is one that has attracted great attention from all parts of Canada and on which this Party has had great support.

This petition is signed by residents of Calgary, Alberta, who protest the Government's plans to make instant concessions before free trade negotiations are even really under way by allowing the passage of Bill C-22 which will inevitably increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition. I noted that the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) had a petition on behalf of fishermen from Newfoundland. My petition is from the other side of the country. It is from Alert Bay, British Columbia, that great little fishing area. Fishermen there petition the Government to ensure that the Minister of Employment (Mr. Bouchard) will reject any recommendation that would deprive fishermen of their right to collect unemployment insurance and to enter into consultations with all representatives of fishermen in order that improvements to the program offered to fishermen are made.

It is a great privilege to present this petition, Mr. Speaker. I know that Your Honour is from Alberta. However, I know that you know about fishing and fishermen. Thus I present my petition on behalf of the fishermen of Alert Bay.