

Petitions

the land. Because of that, it is a great pleasure for me to present this petition on their behalf.

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, I have a petition of some 36 names of people from my Province of Saskatchewan representing such towns as North Battleford, Rosthern, Adams, Biggar, Medstead, Cut Knife, etc. It is my pleasure, indeed my duty, Madam Speaker, to present this petition to you.

● (1540)

The petitioners are concerned by the change in the Crow rate. They are concerned, Madam Speaker, that the proposals before us would indeed have a tremendously harmful effect upon the Saskatchewan agricultural community, and I wish to present their petition to you.

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present to you a petition from the people of Saskatoon, Biggar and Vanscoy who are concerned about the Bill now before the House of Commons that will take away the Crow rate. They ask that the House and the Government of Canada see fit that this Bill is not brought into effect but rather that the statutory Crow rate continue, so I place this petition before you, Madam Speaker, and hope that it will be respected.

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from some 35 or 40 Canadians from towns such as Gull Lake, Webb and Tompkins in the Province of Saskatchewan who have pointed out to the House, through their ancient right of petition, that western Canadian farmers have paid some \$131 million to export grain during the fiscal year 1981-82, that this grain in turn contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade, and that this is a fair contribution by western farmers to the Canadian economy. They therefore petition the House that there be no change in the Crow rate so that justice can be done.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from some 20 Canadian citizens, mostly residing in Herbert.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Heap: These citizens feel that the Crow rate is a fair rate and that they have paid their fair share of transportation costs and their fair contribution to overseas trade. They therefore ask Parliament to see to it that the Crow rate is not increased, and as in duty bound, they humbly pray.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, I hear a lot of noise coming from the Liberals and the Tories. I suppose that is because in terms of the Crow rate, their constituents do not know where they stand. But I have the honour to present a petition, Madam Speaker, from a number of Canadians. They say that the western Canadian farmers have paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year and this grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned Canadians 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. They therefore humbly pray that you take whatever steps you can, Madam Speaker, to ensure that the Crow rate does not change.

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from the riding of Dauphin-Swan River, and the undersigned petitioners indicate that the Crow rate is an important benefit to western Canada and one of the earliest incentives granted to the settlers. They want the Crow rate retained. I would like to point out, especially to the Hon. Members opposite, that the Crow rate is considered in my riding to be just as sacred as is the ability to speak French in Canada to the constituents of my hon. friends from Quebec. So I have the duty and the honour to present this petition to the House of Commons, and we trust that when it is examined, it will be found that it is signed by people from Gilbert Plains and Grandview.

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present to the House this afternoon a petition signed by some 33 individuals from the southwest corner of Saskatchewan, the communities of Cadillac, Admiral and Scotsguard, who, at the same time as they appreciate the need to upgrade the rail transportation system in Canada, do not want the full weight and cost of upgrading that system to be borne on the backs of the grain producers in their area. They therefore humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate, otherwise known as the Crow rate, and although they do appreciate the other concerns that exist over grain transportation, they do want the Crow rate to be maintained. I do present their petition this afternoon, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, I present a petition signed by residents of The Pas, Manitoba, people who live in a community which is on the line going to the Port of Churchill. They also express their concern with regard to the proposed changes to the Crow rate. They indicate in their petition that they would like to see the present Crow rate maintained, they would like to see the Government invest money in the railways of Canada, and they would also like to see the Government take a public equity in CP and ensure that there is no variable rate which will hurt and probably kill the Port of Churchill.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of a large number of residents of Pelly, Saskatchewan, and Arran, Saskatchewan, and they state that the western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. That grain in turn contributed over \$6 billion to the balance of trade, and the undersigned believe that the farmers have made a fair contribution to the Canadian economy. They humbly pray, Madam Speaker, that this petition will be heard and there will be no change in the Crow rate.