

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETITIONS

RETENTION OF CROWSNEST PASS RATES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and the duty to present a petition to the Hon. Members of the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. This petition is signed by 37 residents of Canada from Dauphin, Manitoba, Gilbert Plains, Swan River and Valley River, 32 of whom are members of the Manitoba Wheat Pool. They say that farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year and that this grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade for Canada. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers should pay one times the Crow.

• (1510)

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, members of the Manitoba Pool Elevators, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the presence of the statutory grain rate. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a petition signed by some 33 residents of the Hepburn area of Saskatchewan, 30 of whom are members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. They are petitioning the House of Commons in the Parliament of Canada assembled and are exercising their right to present a grievance. They humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year, and that this grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade.

The undersigned believe that the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy should be one times the Crow rate and humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present to the House of Commons in Parliament assembled a petition signed by a number of the members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool who are farmers in the Asquith, Saskatoon and Hepburn areas of the Province of Saskatchewan.

These petitioners want to put before Parliament their wish to maintain the present statutory Crow rate.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, I happen to have another petition signed by some 37 residents of the Province of Manitoba, at least 18 of whom are members of the Manitoba Pool Elevators. They humbly petition the House to maintain the statutory grain rate and say that they are willing to pay one times Crow.

Introduction of Bills

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever and forever pray.

Madam Speaker: I would have hoped that they would all pray at the same time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Since the two petitions were exactly the same, they could have been presented at the same time to save the time of the House. Hon. Members know that the time of the House is really precious and that the time in which to present petitions is normally quite limited in our procedures. Of course they are allowed, but there is another method by which to present petitions, and that is to file them. In cases where they are exactly similar, I think the Hon. Member could have mentioned them both at the same time.

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. What do Hon. Members of Parliament do when they receive separate, individual petitions signed by Canadian citizens and Canadian residents in hundreds of locations in Canada which arrive on different dates?

Madam Speaker: Order. Hon. Members may present those petitions, but there is nothing against presenting them together or even filing them with the Clerk. There has been no denial of that liberty on the part of Hon. Members, just a little admonition to try to save some of the time of the House; but obviously we are not saving much.

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SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY ASSEMBLY ACT

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-686, an Act to constitute a senior citizens advisory assembly.

Some Hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon) is indeed pleased to second this Bill. It would establish a senior citizens' advisory assembly to assist the federal Government in developing policies and providing services for Canada's ever-increasing numbers in this segment of the population.

As the number of senior citizens is increasing at a rate of 3 per cent per year, so are their problems. This Bill would allow senior citizens' groups to meet once a year in this Chamber to discuss collectively their problems, make recommendations and present proposals to the Government. This senior citizens' parliament has been in effect in a number of American states and has proven very successful.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.