

the people of Canada an opportunity to accept or reject the proposed trade deal during a national general election.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of submitting a petition, again from Windsor, thus adding to the thousands of names of those who have signed petitions of this sort. It has been approved by the Clerk of Petitions pursuant to Standing Order 106 and is consistent with the almost universal opposition to the deal in Windsor.

The petitioners observe that whereas the trade deal negotiated by the Mulroney Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government effectively to control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interest of Canadians, or to equalize opportunities between the regions, and would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election. They suggest that this be on Friday.

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and responsibility of presenting this petition from citizens in that very active community of Windsor. The petition says that whereas the trade agreement negotiated by the Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to control foreign ownership effectively, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities between the regions, therefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I also have the pleasure to table in the House a petition certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 106 by a large number of petitioners who are concerned that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. and they humbly pray that a general election be called prior to any such agreement coming into force.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Broadcasting Act

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended by 16 minutes.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BROADCASTING ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-136, an Act respecting broadcasting and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto and in relation to radiocommunication, as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: It may be that more than one Hon. Member might want to address the Chair briefly with respect to Bill C-136, but I would ask Hon. Members to wait until I make my preliminary ruling on the amendments. I do not think any Hon. Member will be in any difficulty because what I will be announcing here is what I feel I can deal with at this time. I have some other matters which I am considering and I want to say that I received two letters from two Hon. Members, one from the Official Opposition and one from the NDP, on this issue.

I want to thank both Hon. Members for the very kind expressions of appreciation contained in those letters with respect to the negotiation and consultation process which we have had working, very well I think, for many months now. I just want to say to Hon. Members that when the Chair receives letters in which there is a clear recognition of the attitude and co-operation between Members and the Table Officers, it makes this place a lot easier to function. I just wanted to say to both Hon. Members that I appreciate it.

[Translation]

The *Order Paper and Notices* contains 91 notices of motions for amendments to the report stage of Bill C-136, an Act respecting broadcasting and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto and in relation to radiocommunication.

[English]

At this time I am prepared to give the House a preliminary ruling in order that the debate can commence. I shall