

Canadians with representatives from 15 centres across the country. They point out that the NAJC has held public meetings about redress for the forcible dispossession and relocation that Japanese Canadians suffered during the second world war, and has used a national questionnaire to develop a position on proper redress. They call on Parliament to deal honourably with Canadian citizens of Japanese descent and to enter into negotiations immediately with the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I recognize other Members with petitions I wish to inform the House that because of the ministerial statement Government Orders will be extended by 26 minutes beginning at 1 o'clock p.m. I will recognize the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone), the Hon. Member for Westmorland—Kent (Mr. Robichaud), the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis) and the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) on petitions.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I rise once again to present petitions. I profit from the presence of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and ask him to listen to the petitioners concerning the tax on reading. I bring to your attention, Sir, that they wish to have this tax removed. They have stated that whereas the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information, and; whereas the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States, yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, booksellers, distributors and Canada's culture, and whereas rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries—I hope the Minister is listening. The undersigned, your Petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations.

I deposit for your information and for your action, Mr. Speaker, 327 names from Nanaimo and Vancouver, B.C., Sydney and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Kincardine, B.C., Ontario, various cities in Manitoba including Winnipeg, Lone Butte, B.C. and other towns and cities in the Vancouver area, Edmonton, Red Deer, Alberta, again Vancouver, B.C., Willowdale, Toronto, more from Toronto and Vancouver, B.C., Burnaby, B.C. These people beg you humbly to press for the removal of the tariff on books, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour of presenting petitions from people living in London, Ontario and in Guelph, Oakville and Mississauga, who wish to express their disapproval of the duty imposed on imports of books in the English language. They

feel the duty is entirely unfair and amounts to penalizing the book industry, and they want to see this duty removed as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to point out that the duty was imposed at the same time as an entirely unfair import duty was levied on Christmas trees, and I want to take this opportunity to ask the House, with our petitioners, to have the duty on Christmas trees and books removed as soon as possible.

● (1300)

[English]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and pleasure to present pages and pages of a petition. Noticing my friend from Victoria who keeps an eye on petitions, I will say that not all the pages are full. There are a number of pages with a number of signatures on them reflecting the concern of individuals from various places in western Canada about the Government's plan to change the Patent Act. They believe that this will see a significant increase in prescription drug prices and will restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by citizens of the Province of Ontario who object to the Government of Canada imposing a tariff on imported books. The petitioners express the view that such a decision by the Conservative Government will limit access of Canadians to literature and information. They call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises cultural industries in respect to free trade negotiations.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I would also present a petition on behalf of citizens of Thunder Bay who complain about the Patent Act amendment proposed by the Government of the day which, according to these citizens, will unfairly hurt Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on a continuing basis because of the inevitable increasing of drug prices due to the activities of the Government. Therefore, they call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will undoubtedly increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour and duty of submitting two petitions to the House. The first is a petition with over 200 names to add to the tens of thousands already submitted. This petition is from Canadians who reside in places in Saskatchewan like Estevan, Elfros, Pangman, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon and many other locations in the province. Since the Government's proposed amendments to the Patent Act will unfairly hurt Canadians