

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, December 8, 1986

The House met at 11 a.m.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

### PETITIONS

#### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to the following 29 petitions: 332-14 to 332-41 inclusive and 332-86.

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[English]

### INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

#### PRESENTATION OF ELEVENTH REPORT OF THE CANADIAN NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 101, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the eleventh report of the Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association respecting the participation of parliamentarians from the House of Commons and the other place in the 32nd session of the North Atlantic Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, from November 14 to November 18, 1986.

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### PETITIONS

#### REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present several petitions. 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 having little negative effect on the publishing industry in the U.S., yet seriously damaging Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and culture, and rising book prices having placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries, the undersigned 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 to free trade negotiations.

#### OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of people in my riding. They point out that government proposals on changing the Patent Act, as they affect prescription drugs, will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers. These changes are unfair to those who depend upon prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. The proposals will result in higher cost for provincial government drug programs. The changes are another example of the Conservative Government serving the interests of multinational corporations instead of those of Canadian consumers. The petitioners ask Parliament to reject these proposals.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions, two of which are from my riding. They concern the Government's plan to introduce higher drug costs by bringing in the Bill we are voting on today. The petitioners say that the changes in the Patent Act are another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the U.S. in an effort to get free trade negotiations; in other words, to cave in to pressure from American drug companies and the American Government. I am pleased to present this petition on behalf of these petitioners in my riding.

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition sent to me by a number of residents from Wadena, Saskatchewan. They note the changes proposed in the Patent Act and they wish to oppose them because they will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers. The changes will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs, result in higher cost to the provincial drug plans, and is just another example of Canadian Government concessions to the U.S. at the expense of Canadians in the free trade negotiations. They call on this House to oppose any changes to the laws and reject these proposals.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour, under Standing Order 106, to present a petition certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions. The petitioners, from New Brunswick, express their concern over the federal Government's intention to change the Patent Act related to prescription drugs. They believe this will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary drugs. They believe this is another example of the Canadian Government's concession to the U.S. at the expense of average Canadians in the free trade negotiations.