

Petitions

year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that the western farmers will pay one times Crow, which means no change. They are certainly not, as some Hon. Members would suggest, members of the flat earth society. These are all members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and farmers.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate, which I am sure the Minister of Transport will soon come to realize.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition with which I have been presented, and which I feel honoured and duty bound to present, from 37 farmers, members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool from Fosston, Canora, Buchanan and Springside, Saskatchewan, in which they, as undersigned residents of Canada, exercise their right to present a grievance because they believe that they, as farmers, have made a fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that they are willing to pay one times the Crow rate.

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

● (1630)

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from the citizens of Rockglen, Saskatchewan. Most of these people are farmers but they also represent a cross section of the community.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their right to present a grievance humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade, and that the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy, and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, that is, no change.

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

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition which I am pleased to present from retired farmers and homemakers from the area of Watrous, Saskatchewan; Viscount, Saskatchewan; Raymore, Saskatchewan and other areas.

These farmers deeply resent the fact that a Government with no representation in their area should try to change a historic bargain of Confederation. They also humbly show in their petition that they paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow rate in the 1981-82 crop year. The grain contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of payment of Canada which is important for the whole country.

They also believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that they should not be further penalized. They also believe that the western farmer should pay one times Crow, that is, no change. Wherefore all the 24 undersigned humbly pray and call upon this Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate.

I would like to table this petition.

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty this afternoon to present a petition which has come about as a result of the proposed Pepin plan which became Bill C-155 in the House of Commons. The petitioners who sent this petition to me present to the honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Saskatchewan, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that the western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade, and the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow which is, in effect, no change.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate, more commonly referred to as the Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

[Translation]

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition signed by Canadians which concerns the Crowsnest Pass rate. These people are members of a colony in Spring Creek—

[English]

To the Hon. House of Commons in Parliament assembled the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their right to present a grievance humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy, and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, in other words, no change.

Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I also have the unique pleasure of presenting to the House of Commons a petition signed by numerous individuals from the thriving metropolis of Gravelbourg and Limerick, Saskatchewan. These individuals wish to petition the House to show that western Canadian farmers have paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed in the order of \$6.3 billion to the Canadian economy to enhance and improve our