

Petitions

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) will recognize that the Chair has permitted this, but I think the Hon. Member for Yukon will also recognize that the Hon. Member who is presently on his feet is going a little beyond the scope which is normally permitted.

Mr. de Jong: Mr. Speaker, I certainly wish to apologize to you and to the House if I am breaking any rules or straying from the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member will please read his petitions.

Mr. de Jong: Wherefore we, the undersigned, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to request the Prime Minister to refuse to allow the testing of this new generation of weapons on Canadian soil. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. DE JONG—OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which is mainly from residents of Vernon, British Columbia, and it is addressed to the honourable House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of British Columbia and other Provinces, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth—and I will try to make this brief, Mr. Speaker—that the oil companies, particularly Chevron, are considering a resumption of offshore explorations, that the federal Government is considering lifting the moratorium on offshore explorations, and that any future benefits to British Columbia are in question because of the federal Government's new energy legislation.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that there will be full and complete public hearings into the supply and demand for the energy and the socio-economic and environmental aspects of offshore development before the moratorium is lifted. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. DE JONG—RETENTION OF CROWSNEST PASS RATES

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that I wish to introduce to the House. It is a petition that is mainly from people who live in and around the Swift Current area. We, the undersigned, have carefully considered some of the alternatives proposed by the Pepin-Gilson Report and we urge the Parliament of Canada to immediately adopt some provisions other than the Pepin-Gilson provisions in order that the Crowsnest Pass freight rate agreement may be maintained and to ensure that the railways of all of Canada may be upgraded.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to retain the Crowsnest Pass freight rate agreement.

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has considerable misgivings concerning points of order during the presentation of petitions. If the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight) has a point of order, the Chair is prepared to hear it. However, it is very difficult to conceive of a point of order under these circumstances.

Mr. McKnight: Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to enter into debate or to cause problems. I simply want to make a correction. I understood the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong) to say that he was presenting a petition from Melrose, Saskatchewan. I come from—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the Hon. Member, he is not making a point of order. The Hon. Member for Regina East.

● (1440)

MR. DE JONG—EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition that I wish to introduce to the House. It is addressed to the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that whereas the number of unemployment people in Canada far exceeds the present demand for workers and the number of people whose Unemployment Insurance benefits become exhausted each month and who are subsequently forced to exist on inadequate welfare benefits is a national disgrace, therefore we, the undersigned petitioners, call on the Government of Canada to extend the length of payments of Unemployment Insurance benefits to those who qualify for major claims by a further 52 weeks.

MR. DE JONG—STUDENT LOANS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition addressed to the honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that whereas under present regulations people who are graduating from or leaving post-secondary educational institutions and who have taken out Canada student loans are required to begin paying back those loans within six months of leaving full-time study, and whereas with the present and projected level of unemployment at such a high rate many students find themselves without employment and in severe financial hardship for extended periods after leaving school, therefore we, the undersigned petitioners, humbly pray that the Government of Canada amend the Canada Student Loans Act to extend this grace period to 18 months.