

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT AMENDMENTS

**Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition duly certified under Standing Order 36 which deals with the whole question of unemployment insurance.

The petitioners urge the Government immediately to adopt the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in its first report to the thirty-third Parliament and not to proceed with the proposed changes to the unemployment insurance fund, which will disentitle up to a million Canadians from unemployment insurance benefits.

**Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn):** Mr. Speaker, I too would address the same topic. I have a petition duly certified by the Clerk under Standing Order 36, the topic being the changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act and the disenfranchisement of up to a million Canadians as a result of those changes.

The petitioners are asking that the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in its first report to the thirty-third Parliament, second session, be adopted.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, I intend to file with this House a petition signed by a number of outstanding Canadian citizens and taxpayers who are deeply concerned about the pending unemployment insurance Bill.

These citizens are opposed to the harmonization of unemployment insurance in this House to conform with the Free Trade Agreement, which will destroy the historic role of unemployment insurance in this nation.

These people have taken the time out to sign this petition and to bring it to Parliament, with the hope that every ear and mind in this House of Commons will be bent closely to listen to their pleas, along with my insistence that this become a high priority with the Government.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I too want to bend the minds and the ears of the Members across the way if it is possible; I am not sure if it is. I also have a petition signed by a number of Canadians who are concerned about changes to the

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Unemployment Insurance Act which they feel will take about a million Canadians off the unemployment insurance payroll.

They are also saying that they are concerned that no reference was made to the Unemployment Insurance Act during the election campaign of November, 1988. A number of these Canadians are concerned about these changes and about the honesty and integrity of the Government across the way. They are hoping the Government will come to its senses and listen to what they are saying.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my petition is also for the benefit of the bent minds across the way. It is related to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

The people who have signed this petition indicate that they are upset that the federal Government made no reference to such changes in unemployment insurance during the recent election. They want to note that the only government position of record was the reference made by the all-Party Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration which called for improvement in benefits, cuts, and waiting periods.

Therefore, the undersigned petitioners humbly call upon Parliament to move immediately to adopt the recommendations presented to it by the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in its first report to the thirty-third Parliament, second session, and to reject any proposals to fund much needed retraining programs from unemployment benefits.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36, on behalf of a number of people from Kamloops, British Columbia, outstanding Canadians who are concerned that the changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act proposed by the Government would prevent up to a million Canadians, annually, from establishing unemployment insurance claims. There is a long list of concerns but I will not go through them all. I will use a few days to raise them, day by day.

Fundamentally, they are calling upon Parliament to move immediately to adopt the recommendations presented to it by the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration in its first report to the thirty-third Parliament, second session, and to reject any