

*Petitions*

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I was going to pursue a question of privilege but, based on your ruling, at this point there is no need for it.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition from my riding, the first I have presented on this matter. It contains numerous signatures and concerns the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs. The petitioners state that this will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. There has been an overwhelming response to this in my constituency and I want to table the petition.

[*Translation*]

## REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, this morning I have the honour, in accordance with our Standing Orders, of tabling various petitions on two different subjects, but I will table only two.

[*English*]

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. It is a long petition which comes from Windsor.

I have another petition and, since you stated to present all the petitions together, I will do so.

These petitioners state that whereas the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States and yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers and distributors in Canada's culture, and whereas rising book prices have placed a strain on book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries, the undersigned petitioners in these two long petitions 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 have abided by your ruling by making no comment, but I see that the Minister responsible for culture is here and I hope she will take action on this very important subject.

## OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition on an equally very important matter. It is only the first of a multitude and multiplicity of others coming from my district and all across Canada. These petitioners are not from my district, but from Selkirk. Many of my colleagues from that district have the honour of presenting the same petition.

These petitioners state that whereas the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs, and whereas the proposed measures will unfairly hurt those Canadians, and whereas the proposal of the federal Government will result in higher costs to provincial Governments, the undersigned petitioners call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

## REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition concerning the retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language. Most of these petitioners live in Calgary. The citizens point out that increased book prices place a strain on acquisitions in libraries, that the Government's decision is causing great hardship to the book industry in Canada, and they 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.

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition, duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions, regarding the retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language, which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information. The undersigned petitioners pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens to seriously harm the Canadian book industry. This petition is signed by some 25 persons in the Toronto and Ottawa areas.

I have another petition from 28 persons in the area of Dryden, Ontario, who are also concerned about the same matter of the retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language. Again, these petitioners call upon Parliament to rescind the tariff.

● (1130)

I have a third petition, Mr. Speaker, from people in the Ottawa area and from Peterborough and Bracebridge, Ontario. It is signed by 26 petitioners. The petition as well has been duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions.

I have a fourth petition on the same subject. This is signed by some 25 persons from the Toronto area. The petitioners again call upon Parliament to rescind this very damaging tariff.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from people in the London area. I would urge Hon. Members from the London area to take note of it. The petitioners again call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff. This tariff is hurting Canadian book readers, particularly at this time prior to Christmas when a lot of people buy books for their own use and to give as gifts. If Parliament would rescind this tariff prior to the adjournment for Christmas it would be appreciated.