

Petitions

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition from citizens of Canada representing small towns in Saskatchewan, Rockliden, Killdeer and Gravelbourg. 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 farmer's fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow, that is, no change.

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

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, as Member for Spadina, but having regard for the needs of the whole of Canada, I have a petition from a number of residents of Canada who are now exercising their right to present this grievance. The petition 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 also believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow rate with no change.

Therefore, the undersigned, that is, your petitioners, Mr. Speaker, humbly pray and call upon this Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain, that is the Crow rate and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of 45 farmers from the Lloydminster area of Alberta and Saskatchewan, a group of farmers who feel that they contributed nothing to inflation in Canada. These petitioners, the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise the 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. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow, that is, no change.

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

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, again it is my pleasure and a privilege to present a petition on behalf of 34 Canadian farmers who state the following in their petition. 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 this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow.

Wherefore the 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, since those farmers do not believe that they are responsible for inflation in this country.

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to introduce a petition at this time, as is my privilege and, indeed, my duty. It is a petition from some 36 Canadians, mainly from around North Battleford, though including people from Cut Knife, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Lashburn, et cetera. The petitioners wish to humbly petition the House of Commons, which is assembled here, to exercise their right to present a grievance. The grievance is that our western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the crop year of 1981-82. This grain, in turn, contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. Indeed, the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy. Mr. Speaker, I might say that I also believe this—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Good for you.

Mr. de Jong: Western farmers are willing to pay one times the Crow, meaning, again, that there will be no change.

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

Mr. Speaker, if I am allowed, I also wish to point out that most of them are farmers and members of the—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is not to describe his petitioners. He may simply present his petitions.

Mr. de Jong: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am sure Your Honour and most Hon. Members of the House are aware that farmers and Canadian taxpayers are putting hundreds of millions of dollars into upgrading of the rail lines and development of a major grain facility in Prince Rupert, in my riding. Farmers from across Canada and constituents in my riding are petitioning the House. In this case, most of the names on the petition I will be tabling are those of members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. They present the following petition for your consideration, Mr. Speaker, and for the consideration of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin).

To the 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