

Introduction of Bills

October 3rd from Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia. I present these to the House in their name.

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, it is also my duty to present to this House a few petitions from people in New Brunswick on this tariff on imported books in the English language, which is also known as a tax on reading. The petitioners are from Fredericton, Dalhousie, Woodstock, Riverview, Hartland, Newcastle, and many other towns and villages in New Brunswick. The petitioners humbly 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. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present some petitions from Alberta where some people say that the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which limits access by Canadians to literature and information. I also have the honour to present a petition from residents of British Columbia who say that the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry in the U.S., yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and culture.

I have the honour of presenting another petition from the Victoria area of British Columbia. The petitioners say that rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition program and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries.

I am sure you will be happy to know that I have one more petition in which the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff, which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy and cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations. Most of these people come from Vernon, British Columbia.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure and honour to present a petition signed by the required number of people asking the Government of Canada to withdraw this retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which limits access by Canadians to literature and information. The tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry in the U.S., yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and culture. Rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries. I have two petitions and I humbly pray that Parliament take these petitioners' requests and act accordingly.

CRIMINAL CODE AND CANADA EVIDENCE ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada) moved to introduce Bill C-15, an Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, 1971

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-16, an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Minister have leave to introduce this Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the Bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 10 and 13.

[Text]

MANUFACTURERS' SALES TAX

Question No. 10—**Mr. Friesen:**

In (a) 1984 (b) 1985 (c) 1986 to date, how many employees in government departments worked directly in the manufacturers' sales tax sector?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of National Revenue): The Excise Branch of the Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, is responsible for the administration of the manufacturers' sales tax. The following shows the number