

Petitions

to the House of Commons opposing the government's mandatory imposition of the metric system of measurement here in Canada and calling instead for voluntary conversion. The petitioners' view is echoed by widespread and determined opposition in the constituency of Oxford to the government's strong-arm tactics in pushing for compulsory metric. The petitioners hope that the government will come to its senses and be sensitive to the needs, desires and concerns of the Canadian people, allowing them a say in metric conversion.

• (1520)

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Madam Speaker, I rise in response to the thousands of names that I have received from my constituents with respect to the implementation of the metric system, and I present their petition at this time.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, to the honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, we petitioners of the undersigned riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka—and I also speak for many of the ridings in northern Ontario—now avail ourselves of our 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. We humbly sheweth that we oppose the mandatory imposition of the SI metric system in Canada, that we believe the pace, degree and nature of change to the SI metric system should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sectors of trade and industry by the individual firms or industries directly concerned and with minimal government interference and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of the federal riding of Burlington who oppose the mandatory imposition of the SI metric system in Canada. We ask the House to give a proper and just redress to this grievance.

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Mississauga, may I present a petition against the mandatory imposition of the metric system in Canada. My constituents believe that metric should be voluntary.

Mr. Fred King (Okanagan-Similkameen): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and the duty to present a petition to this House on behalf of the constituents of the federal riding of Okanagan-Similkameen who have added their signatures to a petition, the purpose of which is to express opposition to the mandatory imposition of the metric system in Canada. The nature of the petition is to pray and beseech that this House note the desire of the people of Canada to return to the voluntary nature of metric conversion with a minimum of governmental interference.

The petitioners hope, Madam Speaker, that you will find the petition in order, sense the urgency and that you will bring to the attention of the Government of Canada the anxious

concerns of citizens to the mandatory imposition of metrication in their country.

Mr. John Kushner (Calgary East): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present this petition of the many undersigned residents of the federal riding of Calgary East in the city of Calgary, Alberta, 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 for those citizens who oppose the mandatory imposition of the SI metric in Canada and who believe that the pace, degree and nature of change to the SI metric should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sectors of trade and industry by the individual firms or industries directly concerned and with minimal government interference and, as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present to you on behalf of the citizens of Scarborough East and the other Scarborough ridings not being represented here today a petition opposing the enforced implementation of metrication in Scarborough and in Canada at a time when electronics provide instant recognition on weigh scales, of both imperial and metric, and at a time when we apparently cannot afford the cost of extremely expensive bilingual labels. I earnestly petition that we be given the freedom of choice on all labels involving weights and measures.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, it is my honour today to present a petition on behalf of thousands of my constituents in the Bow River riding in Alberta. My constituents oppose having metric shoved down their throats. They oppose compulsion by a totalitarian government in imposing metric on them. They oppose the spending of millions of their dollars to let the people know what is good for them.

Madam Speaker: Order. I am sure that is not in the title of the petition.

Mr. Taylor: It is.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member must not argue about the petition.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, I won't argue. I simply ask on behalf of my constituents that the government which passed the order in council and made metric compulsory now make it voluntary by order in council.

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Madam Speaker, it is my duty on behalf of thousands of constituents of Calgary West to present this petition to the House. The constituents in my riding are also concerned about the enforced aspect of metric and about the fact that democracy was not well served. The constituents in my riding would like to remind the members of this House and the government that when democratic ways are not attended to the faith which the people have in democracy today is inevitably eroded. This is one of those examples.