

Routine Proceedings

Mr. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Madam Speaker, several rural post offices in my riding have been closed by Canada Post as part of its rural conversion program. With this policy, Canada Post has weakened its commitment to mail delivery in the rural and isolated regions of Canada. I want to change that.

The purpose of my bill is to modify the mandate of Canada Post Corporation in two ways. First, this bill would broaden how Canada Post must deliver its services. People in all regions of Canada must receive similar service, but instead of just considering the comparable size of communities, Canada Post would now have to consider regional characteristics. A town's proximity to other communities and services and its regional economic conditions are important defining factors which Canada Post has so far refused to acknowledge.

Second, my bill would include within Canada Post Corporation's mandate the goal of maintaining an existing post office in communities where it is one of the few remaining federal symbols. The traditional post office is for many communities their last link to a distinct federal government and one which they want to keep. I am proud to present this bill before the House today and call upon members from all sides to support it.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Mr. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso) moves that the bill be now read the first time and printed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 69(1), the motion is deemed adopted.

Bill read the first time and printed.

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PRIVATE BILL**UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LIMITED**

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Asiniboia): Madam Speaker, I would seek leave to move a motion that this House receive a late petition for a private bill. The motion is as follows:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Orders 132 and 140, the petition for a private bill from United Grain Growers Limited presented on Tuesday, December 1, 1992 and reported on by the clerk of petitions on Wednesday, December 2, 1992 be deemed to have been filed within the required time limit and received by this House.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent of the House to move the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The Chamber has heard the motion. Does the House wish to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS**THE ENVIRONMENT**

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Madam Speaker, this petition is signed by a number of constituents in my riding who believe that managing our activities within a global environment is a shared responsibility with no geographical, cultural or political boundaries. They also believe our healthy future is the responsibility of all Canadians and their government in a growing concern for the environment to unify this country.

Therefore, they are calling on Parliament to urge the government to prepare a comprehensive paper which provides a contextual and tentative framework embracing the relationship among the environment, the economy and the Constitution so that Canadians can discuss in a unified way their importance to our future health and prosperity.

SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Madam Speaker, I have three petitions to present today. The first is from a number of my constituents who note that the United States has unfairly imposed a duty on our softwood lumber exports to that country and has engaged in other trade practices which amount to harassment of Canadian producers.

They also note the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States has resulted in lost jobs and devastation of the Canadian economy without providing the promised benefits. They therefore call on Parliament to take whatever action is necessary to defend the interests of the Canadian softwood lumber industry against the unfair duties and also to request that Parliament act immediately to affect the cancellation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.