

Petitions

The petitioners say that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States.

Whereas the proposed trade agreement denies Canadians secure access to the U.S. market, which was the key objective in these negotiations, and threatens loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs, the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by residents of Canada stating their objection to the trade agreement negotiated by the Government. They believe it threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to effectively control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians and to equalize opportunities between the regions of Canada.

Therefore, the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition from a great many Canadians who wish to have their concern about the free trade agreement expressed in the House today as we begin the debate.

They believe it would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and would undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States.

They believe this agreement would deny Canadians the secure access to the U.S. market that was the key objective in these negotiations. They also believe that Parliament should be dissolved and that the people of Canada should be given the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour of presenting a petition to the House. Actually, there are six petitions.

The petitioners declare that the Government has no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised and yet this agreement threatens the very fabric of Canadian society. It also removes the powers of the Canadian Government to effectively control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources and to equalize opportunities between regions. It denies Canadians the secure access to the United States market that was promised.

Therefore, these petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the

opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition from a number of residents of the City of Toronto who are very concerned with the trade deal that has been negotiated between the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the President of the United States.

The petitioners point out that the fabric of Canadian sovereignty is threatened by the proposed Mulroney-Reagan trade deal and that the Government has no mandate to negotiate a free trade deal with the United States.

Because the deal would reduce Canada's ability to plan the economic, social and cultural programs Canadians need and would integrate Canada further into the North American defence industrial base, they ask Parliament to ensure that a national debate takes place on the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal and that this debate result in a national general election before such an agreement is signed.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition from a number of people in northwestern Ontario who believe that the proposed trade agreement not only denies Canadians the secure access to the U.S. market that was the key objective in the negotiations but also threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs.

Your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the trade agreement during a national general election, and your petitioners in duty-bound will ever pray.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of several hundred people in northern Alberta. In fact, they are all residents of the constituency of the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski), the constituency of Vegreville.

I thought it would be an appropriate matter to bring to the attention of the House that those people in that constituency say that whereas the Mulroney Government has sold out Canada, whereas Canadian industries are still not protected from U.S. trade laws, whereas the United States obtained everything it wanted in key areas of energy, auto trade, financial services and whereas thousands of jobs are threatened, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to denounce the Government for signing the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement.

The petition is signed by a number of people in the Province of Alberta and the constituency of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and distinct honour to present a petition on behalf of residents of Nipigon, Red Rock, Armstrong and the City of Thunder Bay, all in my constituency of Thunder Bay—Nipigon.