

Petitions

The Chair is interpreting the Standing Orders of the House and is attempting to deal with this as evenhandedly as possible in the circumstances. Whether or not the Standing Orders have to be reviewed in the appropriate manner at the appropriate time and place is a matter which the Chair cannot decide at this stage. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper).

[Translation]

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled:

It is my duty, on behalf of the undersigned residents of Canada, to present this petition to this House of Commons.

Whereas these Canadians in Western Canada paid \$131 million to move grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year, this grain in return has contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade.

And whereas the undersigned believe that this is a fair contribution to the Canadian economy, and whereas western farmers are prepared to pay the present rate for moving their grain, that is why the undersigned, your petitioners, call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Essex-Kent (Mr. Daudlin) on a point of order.

Mr. Daudlin: Mr. Speaker, it appears from the presentations that are being made by my hon. friends, on the other side that all the petitions are headed by the exact, same, identical preamble. If you were to examine the petitions and so find, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether you might also find that we have before us today not a number of petitions but one petition, as anticipated by the rules of the House, being presented by a number of Members. I wonder whether, in order to allow the House to deal with this issue promptly and efficiently, the Chair might not invite Hon. Members on the other side to present their petition as what it really is, that is, one petition, and then allow us to get on with the issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member has made his suggestion. The Standing Order is quite clear. It says that Hon. Members have the right to present petitions. They are examined by the Clerk as to form and a report is made to the House on whether or not the petitions are in form.

In the recollection of the Chair, on many occasions in this House petitions with identical wording have been presented by Hon. Members at different times, on different occasions. In this case the Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Dauphin-Swan River (Mr. Lewycky).

[Translation]

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting a petition to the Honourable the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their ancient and unchallenged rights to present a grievance, with the assurance that your honourable House will provide a remedy.

Humbly sheweth that:

Whereas western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year.

That this contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade of Canada.

Whereas the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy.

And whereas western farmers will pay one time Crow.

Wherefore the undersigned humbly call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate.

And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

[English]

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, this is a fresh point of order upon the last petition which has just been presented. This is additional evidence that there is a systematic tactic being employed by the NDP to prevent us from reaching the Orders of the Day and dealing with the Bill which ought to be debated by this House. It is some sort of—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister has been recognized three times. In the judgment of the Chair he appears to be making the same point of order. The Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn).

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that there is a tradition in this House that we do not challenge the Speakers' rulings. A Minister of the Crown, who has been in this House a long, long time, should know better.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller).

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and pleasure to present on behalf of 27 residents of Coronach, Saskatchewan, many of whom are farmers and are concerned about their livelihood, a petition addressed to the Hon. House of Commons. It 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, and the undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow rate.