

Petitions

Toronto. They wish to petition the House of Commons to rescind a tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations. The petition is presented because of a Bill before this House which they hope will be rejected.

I have another petition from Canadians living in Toronto and Scarborough who also wish to express their concern about rising book prices which has placed a strain on library book acquisition programs. They are particularly concerned because of their association with libraries and feel the Bill before the House will threaten those libraries and their ability to provide an adequate library service to Canadians.

I have another petition from residents of Don Mills, Ontario, and the City of North York. They are concerned about the retaliatory tariff on imported books which the Government has raised and which endangers the book publishing business, book sellers and distributors. They wish to express their discontent with this Bill and therefore humbly petition this House of Commons to rescind the Bill.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): I also have a petition signed by Canadians from Rainy River in northern Ontario and other places. They call upon Parliament to reject the proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians. They are concerned about the changes to the Patent Act and the problems to be faced by senior citizens and others who will have to pay higher prices for prescription drugs than would otherwise be the case if the Bill were not passed by this House.

[Translation]

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, it is my duty to present—

[English]

—petitions which ask the Government of Canada to withdraw the tariff on books. Whereas the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited access of Canadians to literature and information, and whereas the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry in the U.S. yet penalizes Canadian consumers, book publishers, sellers, distributors and Canada's culture, and whereas rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book publishing industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of the ongoing free trade negotiations.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I also have two petitions concerning the Government's proposed legislation that will increase the price of drugs.

[English]

The petitioners humbly submit that the proposed changes to the Patent Act affect directly all Canadians not protected by private or government medicare programs. The federal government proposal will raise the cost, already high, of provincial health care programs. The monopoly granted to innovative pharmaceutical companies will prevent competition from generic companies and result in increased drug prices. It will also severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. Whereas the proposed changes to the Patent Act represent another example of Canadian Government concessions in the free trade negotiations with the United States, at the expense of average Canadians, the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

● (1130)

REQUEST FOR DEPORTATION OF JOHN MICHAEL LEWIS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106 the attached petition is certified correct. It contains 350 signatures and is in tandem with the one presented by the Hon. Member for Mission—Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) which contained 8,000 signatures.

The undersigned protest in the strongest terms a ruling by the Immigration Appeal Board to permit John Michael Lewis, a convicted child molester, to remain in Canada. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to request this ruling be overturned forthwith and demand his immediate deportation to the United States of America.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which contains several dozen names from various communities in Ontario, protesting the imposition of the retaliatory tariff on English language books which the Government imposed last year in response to the cedar shakes and shingles countervail duty imposed by the United States. These petitioners outline that it will have a very negative impact upon the publishing industry and will penalize Canadian consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors, and Canadian culture generally. It will also place a real strain upon the budgets of the nation's public and specialized libraries. They call upon the Government to rescind this 10 per cent duty which is strictly retaliatory and really hurts Canadians more than the Americans it was designed to retaliate against.