

Petitions

Member but many Members stand up and present at least three petitions each, all on the same subject. Second, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious from the content that the Member presenting the petition is not even the Member of Parliament serving those people.

Mr. Deans: Oh, sit down!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members of Parliament, according to our Standing Orders and procedures, have the right to present petitions.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition properly and duly signed by 37 residents of Canada, submitted to me to present to the Parliament of Canada, in which they exercise their ancient right, going back to 1066, to present a grievance. Their grievance is that they wish the Parliament of Canada to recognize that grain producers have paid a fair contribution to the Canadian economy, that western farmers should continue to pay one times the statutory Crow rate. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners, Mr. Speaker, will ever pray.

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present to the House of Commons a petition concerning the Crow rate from citizens of Saskatoon. They address themselves to Parliament assembled and point out that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in 1981-82. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. They believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, which is no change. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

I am happy to present this to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have the honour and privilege of presenting a petition signed by a number of Canadian citizens—

Mr. Smith: How many from the Beaches?

Mr. Young: —to present a grievance humbly showing 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. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow rate, which is no change. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I too am proud to stand in the House and—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell: Members are laughing, but I say I am proud to exercise a right of ordinary people which goes back to the time of Sir Thomas More, the great Chancellor of England.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member is not invited to make a speech on the history of petitions, simply to state his petition.

Mr. Waddell: I will not say any more about that. But I will say that I have a petition signed by 19 people from places like Young, Saskatchewan, Manitoba Beach, Saskatchewan, and other places, and Ottawa as well. The petitioners humbly say that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the Canadian balance of trade. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow rate, that is, no change. Wherefore the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain or Crow rate. I present this petition.

[Translation]

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition signed by Canadians who are concerned about the Crowsnest Pass rate. These people live in a Hutterite colony—

[English]

In their petition they state 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 some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade, and they feel this is a fair contribution to the Canadian economy from themselves as farmers. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate. In duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

● (1620)

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I also stand today in the House of Commons to present a petition signed by a number of Canadians, people of the Province of Saskatchewan, in the communities of Wadena, Kelvington and Rose Valley area, and members of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. They petition the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now exercise their right to present a grievance humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, that is no change.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.