

Petitions

who hold Canada's uniquely accessible Rideau Hall as a symbol of the trust, openness and democracy of which Canadians are so justly proud, and whereas an area of residents from the entire National Capital region, who have used and enjoyed the grounds of Rideau Hall, recognize the security concerns which prompted the closure decision, but could not accept a blanket closure of the 120 acre park to public access, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to open that decision for consultation with a group of citizen representatives of the large and growing opposition in order that a *modus vivendie* be created which would satisfy both the Government and the public.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I also have a series of petitions signed by the required number of residents and which meet the requirements of Standing Order 106. The petitioners humbly submit that the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information and that the tariff has had little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book-sellers, distributors and Canada's culture. The petitioners state that since rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and which compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations.

• (1110)

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today a number of petitions which have been certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 106. The petitioners' concern regards the proposed changes to the Patent Act in relation to prescription drugs. They are also concerned that these changes will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They also state that the proposed measure will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present petitions signed by several hundred residents of Burnaby and other communities in British Columbia who call upon the federal Government to recognize that its proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers and will severely restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy

necessary prescription drugs. They note that the proposed measure will unfairly hurt those Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. As well, they note that the proposals will result in higher costs to provincial government drug plans. The petitioners call upon the Government to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

LOCAL MEASURED TELEPHONE CHARGES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a large number of residents of Burnaby, including, in particular, over 100 residents of 9380 Cardston Court. The petition notes that the telephone is essential for communication and that rental costs must always be affordable. The petitioners note that the telephone pricing scheme known as local measured service, or charging for each local call, means that having a telephone will cost much more per month for most people. Therefore, the petitioners call upon the Government to direct the CRTC to deny to telephone companies such as B.C. Tel the right to charge for each call and to order the retention of the monthly rental for a telephone.

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LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS AT ARMED FORCES BASE AT GOOSE BAY

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by residents of Toronto, North Vancouver and Burnaby who point out that at present low-level flight training of pilots of NATO countries at the Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay, Labrador, disrupts the way of life of many of the native people there. The petitioners note that hunting, fishing, tourism and mining can provide more stable, healthy and peaceful employment than the Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay. The petitioners call upon the Government to ensure that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) end all low-level flight training at the Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay and cease negotiations with NATO for establishment of a larger base there.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present petitions from residents of the Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton and Niagara Falls area as well as residents of communities in Quebec such as Pohénégamook and neighbouring communities who protest the Government's proposals to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs since these proposals will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers, severely restricting the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. They protest that these changes will unfairly hurt Canadians whose health needs require the purchase of prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. They will also result in higher costs to the provincial government drug plans. Therefore, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.