

Petitions

● (1700)

SHOE IMPORT QUOTAS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my petitions are very unusual because they include not only the signatories but also a boot which is full of coal and which will be sent to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney)—

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I invite the Hon. Member to present her petitions without comments or displays.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, my boot is from Susan Shoes and Cougar Shoes in Hamilton whose employees are among the hundreds of signatories who have already sent petitions to our office. Because the Canadian footwear industry is responsible for 20,000 jobs at an estimated value of \$830 million per year and because the industry has made serious efforts to improve its efficiency and productivity, the Government's decision to end quotas on footwear imports as announced on November 20 will cause widespread damage. We pray that the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Kelleher) and the Prime Minister will reinstate quotas on all footwear imports for the next five years thereby protecting existing jobs and allowing for the creation of new jobs in the industry.

I have another petition from the employees of the De Carlo Shoe Co. in Toronto. There are almost 100 signatories.

I have another petition signed by more than 100 workers in the great area of Cambridge who are concerned about the fact that over the last four months, five shoe manufacturers have either closed down their operations or have had serious lay-offs as a direct result of the Government's decision to cut import quotas. They humbly call upon the Prime Minister and the Minister for International Trade to reinstate quotas in order to save 20,000 jobs in the footwear industry.

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from the great riding of Hamilton East, the greatest riding in the country of Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Could the Hon. Member conclude her petitions briefly, please, and restrict herself to the petitions.

Ms. Copps: This particular petition is from the Women's Coalition on Family Allowances which calls upon the Government as follows: We the undersigned ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to act immediately to withdraw Bill C-70 which would reduce the indexation of family allowances. We believe children are everyone's responsibility and the principle of universality must be maintained.

SHOE IMPORT QUOTAS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): I have a petition from a different group, from 211 workers from the city of Toronto, again referring to the loss of jobs which is imminent as a result

of the decision of the Government to terminate shoe quotas. The petition is signed by more than 200 workers in Toronto who call upon the Government to reverse its unwise decision to cut off the workers in the footwear industry.

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): I have another petition from the great—

Mr. Speaker: Could I ask the Hon. Member to please conclude very briefly.

[*Translation*]

Ms. Copps: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from another group, the Coalition of Women for Family Allowances from the riding of Champlain, which is asking the Government—

Mr. Malépart: They have no Member there!

Ms. Copps: With those deuces of spades over there, we of course have to present their petitions. This petition comes from citizens asking full indexation of family allowances for all children and families, especially the single-parent families.

Mr. Speaker, I only have another petition which I will briefly introduce. It comes from the riding of Trois-Rivières and asks the Government which had undertaken during the election to take steps aimed at helping women—

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member is also reading the petitions, which is not allowed.

FULL INDEXATION OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE AND CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I only have one petition from a group of citizens from the riding of Longueuil. They ask me, through you, Sir, to beg this Government to restore full indexation of family allowance and child tax credit. I must say, Mr. Speaker, these people are in very hard straits and I want some sympathy for them.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have several petitions to present and they do not deal with the same matter. I will try to make it short, because I am sure that you would like me to do so.

[*English*]

SHOE IMPORT QUOTAS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): I have here a petition signed by employees of the Celebrity Shoe Factory Limited at 53 Hymus Road in Scarborough, Ontario who ask the Government of Canada to reinstate shoe quotas.