

Before the Minister dissolves into total euphoria, I must say that I am also concerned about this agreement. I am concerned that a couple of issues have not been addressed. The first issue with which I wish to deal was on the agenda the Minister made for himself when he was appointed President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret). I refer to the question of political rights. Apart from very senior civil servants, people working in the Public Service of Canada should have essentially the same political rights as any other citizen in Canada. The other issue is one which I regret was not addressed. I refer to the question of lay-off procedures. As one trade unionist described to me today, the procedures in use are medieval. They set employees against employees. They affect morale and encourage favouritism and all types of abuse. They must be changed. Having resolved this particular problem, I urge the Minister to come to grips with this issue and to implement important changes so that, if the Government insists on firing civil servants, it be done in a way which is not only fair but which is seen to be fair by the people involved. If that were the case, the extra time that might be involved to make the system fair would far more than compensate by the improvements in morale.

Those are my comments. We will look on with interest in terms of how this agreement will work. Even though I regret the way this measure was achieved, I hope people will see it as a result of how collective bargaining can be a productive and positive element in our society.

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PETITIONS

CANADIAN TARIFF ON IMPORTED BOOKS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a series of petitions which I would like to table. The first states that whereas 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 the tariff has 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; and rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries; the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations.

I have petitions from Nova Scotia, in particular from the Cities of Dartmouth, Waverley, Bedford and Halifax. One is from Sackville, New Brunswick.

I have a series of petitions as well from the Province of Quebec. They are signed by citizens living in Lennoxville, Ste Foy, North Hatley, Sherbrooke, and other cities.

Petitions

I have additional petitions signed by citizens of Ontario who are very upset with the 10 per cent tariff. These petitions come from Burlington, Scarborough, Unionville, Pickering, Whitby, Willowdale, Thornhill, Markham, Toronto, Don Mills, Richmond Hill and Mississauga.

I have petitions signed by people living in Edmonton and Sherwood Park.

I have other petitions signed by people living in British Columbia.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I think the Hon. Member has presented her petition well.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I do not wish the Hon. Member to continue to name the cities. She has presented her petition well. She may proceed if she has another petition to present.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, I have additional petitions which come from Hudson, Quebec.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member. If the Hon. Member has a petition on another subject, then she may present it. That is what I was saying. I believe that she has presented her petition well.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I too rise on the same matter. I have petitions signed by Canadians who are suggesting that if the Canadian Government wishes to retaliate against the Americans, then it should do so against citizens of the United States and not against citizens of Canada. The people who have signed this petition state with respect to the tariff against imported books that it penalizes Canadian consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and Canada's culture. It is for that reason that I present petitions from various ridings in Ontario in the hope that the Canadian Government will realize its folly and rescind the tariff immediately so that our book industry and cultural organizations can thrive without interference from the Government.

• (1530)

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have petitions on the same subject. The petitioners from Prince Edward Island call upon the Government to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries with respect to free trade negotiations.

I have a petition here from 30 people in Charlottetown and the surrounding area. I also have a petition from Halifax and parts of Nova Scotia. I have another petition from Yarmouth on the same subject, and Shelburne County, Nova Scotia. I have another petition signed by 25 residents of the Halifax-Dartmouth area of Nova Scotia. I have another petition dated