

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON CHRISTMAS TREES

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would urge you to see to it that the tariff on Christmas trees be withdrawn as well, for it might be very harmful to our industry.

OPPOSITION TO CANADA POST CORPORATE PLAN

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): I have a few more petitions, Mr. Speaker, concerning the Canada Post planned closure of a number of post offices in rural regions and elsewhere in Canada. Your petitioners are Ontarians from Tiverton, Fort Elgin, Windsor, and Belle River. They simply ask Parliament to shelve this project aimed at closing rural and urban post offices.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I hope this is the last time I rise in the House on the subject of the duty on books. Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting a few more petitions regarding this question.

[*English*]

The petitioners say 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 the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, booksellers, distributors and Canada's culture, and with rising book prices has placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries. The undersigned petitioners—

[*Translation*]

—humbly pray and call upon Parliament to drop this duty which may cause irreparable harm to the Canadian publishing industry and compromise the survival of the federal policy on cultural industries in the free trade talks with the United States.

I may draw your attention as well to the duty on Christmas trees which should also be dropped.

[*English*]

These petitions come from Waterloo, Kitchener, Toronto, Burlington, Georgetown, Etobicoke, Vancouver, Harrison Hot Springs, Kamloops, Penticton and Kelowna, to name just a few places. With that, I will table these petitions for your serious attention, Mr. Speaker, and particularly for the attention of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

CANADA POST—POSTAL SERVICES

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I also bring to your attention concerns surrounding Canada Post. I bring the following petition to your attention: whereas the Canada Post Corporation's plan to adopt supermailbox service

Petitions

creates two classes of Canadian citizens in urban as well as rural regions, whereas the closure of rural post offices will eliminate the federal presence in numerous communities and will impede the effectiveness of the postal service which is vital in rural areas, whereas the increased postal rates, particularly on second-class mail, will imperil the distribution of numerous magazines, periodicals and regional newspapers as well as religious publications, the undersigned your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the corporate plan proposed by Canada Post Corporation and instruct the corporation to proceed with mail delivery to all Canadian taxpayers without discrimination.

[*Translation*]

They declare that this plan is not fair, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

These come from people from Port Hope, Oshawa, Bowmanville, Hull, Kanata, Manotick, Ottawa and Windsor.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition from residents of Saskatchewan including the cities of Regina and Saskatoon and other communities in that great province, calling upon the Government and Parliament to reject the corporate plan proposed by Canada Post Corporation and instruct the corporation to proceed with mail delivery to all Canadian taxpayers without discrimination.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I also have some petitions and these are from the Ottawa—Hull area, including Gloucester, Nepean, Aylmer and Vanier. I also have some petitions from Hull and from the riding of Trois-Rivières, and all these petitioners respectfully state that the new corporate plan for Canada Post creates two classes of citizens by permanently installing the superboxes in both urban and rural areas; wherefore your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject Canada Post's plan and urge the Corporation to deliver the mail to all Canadian taxpayers, without exception.

[*English*]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition duly approved by the Clerk of Petitions from Canadians living in Vancouver, Nepean, Ottawa, Belmont and other parts of Canada who are concerned that the Government's proposal to change the Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase drug prices for Canadian consumers, will restrict the ability of ordinary Canadians with ordinary incomes to buy needed prescription drugs, will increase the cost of provincial government drug plans and will be an unnecessary concession to the United States in the matter of free trade. Therefore, they request that Parliament reject the proposals of the Government on the ground that they will harm the majority of Canadians.