

*Petitions*

**Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the residents from Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The petition has been duly signed. I have authorized the petition with my signature. I am sure that you will find this petition in order. The petitioners state that the Crow rate is non-negotiable. The petition humbly sheweth that 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 over \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade in Canada.

The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' contribution to the Canadian economy and that the western farmers agreed to pay one times the Crow, in other words, no change.

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

[Translation]

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition to the Honourable the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that you honourable House will therefore provide a remedy.

Humbly sheweth 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.

That the undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy.

And that western farmers will pay one time Crow.

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.

[English]

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the undersigned residents of Canada from the towns of Simmie, Scotsguard, Shaunavon and Wymark. If it were necessary to prove the authenticity of the petition I could read the names of each individual. I can see that it is not necessary, Mr. Speaker. These citizens of Canada now exercise their right to present a grievance that humbly sheweth 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 that this is the farmers' contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times the Crow, that is, no change.

Wherefore the undersigned your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the statutory grain rate, that is the Crow rate. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray. This dated Tuesday, May 17, 1983. These petitioners have no objection to the Government's introducing good Unemployment Insurance legislation.

• (1800)

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 45 deemed to have been moved.

AGRICULTURE—NEW BRUNSWICK POTATO INDUSTRY. (B)  
REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, on two occasions I have addressed questions to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) pertaining to the economic calamity which is descending upon the potato industry of New Brunswick.

**Mr. Berger:** You turkey.

**Mr. McCain:** I do not think I have ever extended such uncalled for discourtesy to a fellow Member and I bemoan the fact that anyone would display such poor manners as the departing Member just did.

**Mr. Taylor:** He is a Liberal.

**Mr. McCain:** There is an element of respect demanded. I shall not raise a question of privilege or a point of order, but I wanted to draw this to your attention, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Chair was not aware of what happened. I was distracted for a moment. The Hon. Member may wish to continue.

**Mr. McCain:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The problem of the potato industry is virtually of a catastrophic nature. On May 6, 1983 I drew this to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture in questions listed on page 25226 of *Hansard*. The Minister responded in a rather oblique sort of way. At that point in time I tried to point out to the Minister that if there was no response with respect to the means at his disposal for assistance to this industry it would be too late. He has offered diverging sort of answers, delaying responses and nothing has happened.

However, I want to address one of the requests that I made of him, namely, that the Government should allow the agencies