

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that deindexing was changed yesterday by the Government, I still think it is in order to present to the House a petition from residents of my riding who protest the deindexing proposal.

CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): I also have a petition from the employees of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union from Manitoba and Newfoundland. They call upon the Government to reverse the changes it made to the Unemployment Insurance Act whereby severance pay would be used in calculating unemployment insurance benefits.

I have one other petition from residents of Castlegar, British Columbia, also protesting those changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act.

DESCHÊNES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today a petition on behalf of the many individuals who have written to my office, sent telegrams and made numerous phone calls, in order to voice their concern over the issue of the evidence presented by the Soviet Union being considered by the Deschênes Commission of Inquiry. Their concern is with regard to the very real possibility, based on past history, that the evidence the Soviet Government is likely to produce is likely to be fabricated to serve the purpose of destroying the credibility of individuals who have been active and vocal in their criticism of the Soviet system.

● (1210)

I have a second petition from a number of Canadians from Montreal who have requested the House not to admit Soviet evidence in the Canadian courts and suggest it would be tantamount to recognizing the legitimacy of the Soviet legal system which has imprisoned thousands of human rights activists on manufactured evidence.

I have a third petition which is also from Montreal, Mr. Speaker. The petitioners ask the commission to expand its mandate to include Soviet war criminals who perpetrated atrocities during World War II.

DEINDEXATION OF OLD AGE SECURITY

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair person for the Task Force on Pensions, I have the honour to present petitions on behalf of Canadians across Canada. They come from Newfoundland, Grand Prairie, Alberta, and from Prince George. These petitions contain 200 signatures from Operation Solidarity representing unions across British Columbia. There are over 2,000 signatures from my riding of Vancouver East in addition to others submitted earlier. There are over 1,000 signatures from many municipali-

Introduction of Bills

ties in the Lower Mainland and the islands of British Columbia. I congratulate them all.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present seven petitions from throughout the Algoma constituency from people protesting the cut-backs in old age pensions. Their efforts have obviously been very instrumental in the change in the government policy. Those petitions come from Manitoulin Island, the north shore communities of Lake Huron, Blind River, Central Algoma, communities of Elliot Lake, Sault Ste. Marie and area, and Espanola and area.

As well, I have a petition with several dozen names from Medicine Hat, Brooks, and other communities in southern Alberta also protesting the cut-back in old age pensions. Obviously these petitions were very instrumental in changing the Government's position.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty today to present a series of petitions which support the decision of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to reinstate indexing to OAS. These petitions come from the constituency of Prince Albert, Mackenzie, and The Battledowns-Meadow Lake.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-246, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (leave of absence).

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Hon. Member shall have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, the reason for the introduction of this Bill is to allow any individual elected to the House of Commons to have a leave of absence from employment. That leave of absence would continue for as long as the individual continues to be re-elected to the House of Commons.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-249, an Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan (survivor's pension).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have the leave to introduce the said Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.