

Petitions

of Canadians are being affected. This is another petition I had the honour of tabling today.

Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from the City of Windsor, Ontario, in which the Canadian Government is being asked to rescind the retaliatory duty imposed on English-language books only, which is unfair, and our petitioners are against the negative effect this may have on the publishing industry, because the Canadian publishing industry is being penalized. That was another petition.

Mr. Speaker, I have one more petition.

• (1110)

[*English*]

I have one more petition to present, Mr. Speaker. It is signed by residents of Bracebridge, Huntsville and Belleville, Ontario. It calls upon the Government to rescind the tariff on imported books in the English language because it has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information and has little or no negative effect on the publishing industry in the United States. These petitions have been presented for your consideration.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, this petition has been duly certified by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 106. It is signed by a number of Canadians protesting the federal Government's proposal to change the Patent Act. The petitioners indicate that these changes will result in higher drug prices for both individual consumers and provinces. They see this as another instance of Canada bowing down to the United States and they call upon Parliament to reject these proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for Canadians.

[*Translation*]

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, today I have the honour of tabling five petitions from the province of Nova Scotia and more specifically from the people of Fall River, Halifax, Windsor Junction, Dartmouth, Bedford and Sackville.

[*English*]

Since the Government has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books, the 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.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and honour to present, on behalf of a number of citizens of Canada, a petition which points out that the changes to the

Patent Act relating to prescription drugs will increase prices for Canadian consumers and restrict the ability of average Canadians to buy necessary prescription drugs. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for all Canadians.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, taking your earlier admonition fully into account I will submit a group of petitions signed by 170 residents of Windsor, Amherstberg and vicinity who ask the Government to rescind the book tariff for the very simple reason that it penalizes the Canadian consumer, book publishers, book sellers, book distributors and Canadian culture as a whole.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED EXCISE TAX

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting a very extensive petition from residents of Winnipeg, Fisher Branch, The Pas, St. Boniface, Ashern, Lauder, Eriksdale, Gimli and other points in Manitoba. There are 1,250 names in total. The petition has been certified by the Clerk. It reads as follows: Whereas a cabinet committee of the federal Government is considering a special excise tax on goods used by the consumptive users of wildlife, hunters and fishermen; guns, ammunition, rods, reels, lures, and on the nonconsumptive users as well such as canoeists, backpackers, campers and birdwatchers to name a few, wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to halt this proposal immediately.

OPPOSITION TO CUT-BACKS TO RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to table a petition signed by a number of citizens of Canada who are exercising their right to do so. They protest the cut-backs of the National Research Council. They ask that those cuts be rescinded and demand that the Government act on its commitment to increase the rate of expenditure for research, science and technology to 2.5 per cent of the Gross National Product.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of Canadian citizens, exercising their right to do so, expressing their concern about the concession to United States interests represented by legislation being introduced which would have the effect of raising the price of drugs in this country. The petitioners demand that the Government withdraw this legislation and give consideration to a more appropriate approach to patent policy.