

Order Paper Questions

Sikh religion where the wearing of a ceremonial knife is part of the custom.

The federal Criminal Code, and court decisions allow citizens to carry knives for self-defence. Your petitioners request that this not be allowed any longer, for which they will ever pray and hope that the Government will act.

REQUEST THAT CANADIAN EMBASSY IN ECUADOR BE
REOPENED

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, from time to time one of the responsibilities and duties of a Member of Parliament is to submit petitions on behalf of the electorate of Canada. I have one in hand which has been properly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. It seeks a response to its request of Parliament that the situation evolving from the closing of the Canadian Embassy in Ecuador be corrected by reopening the Canadian Embassy in Ecuador. It urges the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to reverse the decision to close that embassy.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway on another petition.

Mr. Waddell: I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I forgot it on the previous occasion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon. Member that the Hon. Member requires the consent of the House to bring in another petition to allow it this time.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, constituents in my riding believe that the Government's trade deal negotiated with the Americans will threaten the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty.

The petitioners pray that Parliament be dissolved and that the Government allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election. I have a suspicion that the Government is going to do that, so why does it not do it sooner rather than later?

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED REORGANIZATION
AND DIVESTITURE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Wednesday, April 13, consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-121, an Act to authorize the reorganization and divestiture of Eldorado Nuclear Limited and to amend certain Acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee, and the amendment of Mr. Benjamin (p. 14369).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly) had the floor. Since he is not present, I will recognize the Hon. Member for Humboldt—Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse) on debate.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the amendment moved by my friend, the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin), to put a hoist on this motion and permit the House to have more time to consider the proposal the Government has put before it to dispose of the shares in Eldorado Nuclear Limited.

What is being proposed here is the floating of a share issue. It appears that the Government is proposing to use that issue of shares to assist in the debt reduction for the corporation of some \$550 million, and to carry out its philosophical commitment to privatize as many Crown corporations as it can.

We have a great many questions about this particular initiative, not only on the whole question of privatization and whether that in itself is a good idea, but also on whether it does serve the economy better to have the shares of a public Crown corporation owned by private citizens as opposed to all of the citizens.

The proposal is an attempt to shift some of the debt from Eldorado Nuclear to other owners. We have some grave concerns about the timing. At a time when uranium prices are as low as they have been for a long time, demand seems to be extremely low, this particular initiative brings to mind the initiative of the Government of British Columbia a few years ago when it sold shares in BCRIC, British Columbia Resources Investment Corporation. Those shares were offered to the public at \$5 a share, which the Government said was a good deal and which appeared to be a good deal. Those shares continue to be traded on the stock exchange and are now selling in the range of 90 cents.

The timing could not be worse. The prospects for the nuclear industry are very low at the moment. There is a surplus of uranium, if one looks at the market price for uranium. We see our main market for the commodity, having been the United States, attempting to resist the inflow of any further amounts of uranium. In spite of the clauses in the free trade agreement, which the Government states allows access to the U.S. market,