

### Petitions

In 1984 poor prices prompted western potato producers to ask for the recycling of the plan. In 1985 another market disaster had the rest of Canada's potato producers on side.

A task force was structured in 1986. In the fall of 1987 public hearings were held which recommended that an agency be put in place. Some processors took action against it through the courts. A plebiscite was held in July, 1988 with 75 per cent of the producers saying "yes". It is still tied up in the courts. It has to be started again. This Bill would give the opportunity for it to be restructured and recycled.

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

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• (1110)

### PETITIONS

#### PORT OF CHURCHILL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by over 100 people from the communities of The Pas, Cranberry, Portage, Churchill, Moose Lake, Flin Flon, and Snow Lake, all in northern Manitoba.

The people of this region ask that the federal Government develop the obvious potential of Canada's only inland seaport at Churchill. The undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to direct the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board to ensure that at the very least 3 per cent of Canada's annual grain shipments be shipped through the Port of Churchill and that the Government aggressively pursue additional ways to utilize this important seaport to ship exports other than grain.

#### VIA RAIL SERVICES

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to present a petition on behalf of the people of my riding in Penticton, Summerland, and Naramata who are concerned about the cut-backs at VIA Rail.

They are calling upon the Government to live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail, to abandon plans for further cuts to VIA's budget, and to provide the necessary resources to allow VIA to operate as a

modern, effective transportation company rather than a museum.

#### PRESERVATION OF ROUGE VALLEY

**Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 37, to present to the House today a petition to save the Rouge Valley. The Rouge Valley in Scarborough, in Metro Toronto, is a unique and precious natural area. Protecting the endangered wildlife and wilderness area is in the national interest.

This valley is being threatened by the possibility of metro council designating the area as a garbage dump. Second, it is being threatened by the Ontario Government which states that it may build a freeway through this valley similar to the Don Valley Parkway. Each of these proposals is absolutely inconsistent with keeping this valley in its natural state.

Just last week a spill occurred in the Rouge River. It is of particular concern to the people of Scarborough because of nesting that is taking place in the marsh areas of the Rouge. It is important that we be constantly vigilant.

The petitioners are joined by the Mayor of Scarborough, the federal Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard), the Save the Rouge Valley System, and the Coalition of Scarborough Community Associations representing thousands of people. They call on Parliament to work with the Government of Ontario to establish the Rouge River Valley as a Canadian heritage land or a provincial park.

#### VIA RAIL SERVICES

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of a number of constituents from Kamloops, British Columbia, who are concerned that the Government of Canada appears to have failed to provide the resources necessary to fulfil its promise to improve passenger rail service.

Now that the Government has decided to cut back VIA Rail either totally or in part, the petitioners are calling upon Parliament to improve and modernize VIA Rail instead of cutting it, to service those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economical, safe, convenient, environmentally sound, and energy efficient alternative to other means of transportation. I