

Petitions

● (1510)

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from a number of residents in the City of Toronto who point out that the recent signing of a trade deal between the Conservative Government of Canada and the President of the United States has no mandate from the Canadian people based on the last election campaign. The petitioners point out that it will severely reduce Canada's political and economic sovereignty by interfering with our ability to control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interest of Canadians or to equalize opportunities between the regions of Canada. Therefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

OPPOSITION TO THE ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Madam Speaker, I have two petitions here duly certified pursuant to Standing Order 106. The first is from residents of Ladysmith, British Columbia, concerning nuclear submarines. The petitioners point out that there is a great danger of accidents while nuclear armed or nuclear-powered ships are in Canadian ports. This is a threat to the environment and to Canadian citizens. Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon the House of Commons to ensure that the Government not purchase nuclear-powered submarines for Canada.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Madam Speaker, the second petition relates to the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal, pointing out that in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) pointed out that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised, that the Government had no mandate to conclude a trade agreement with the United States, that the trade agreement negotiated by the Conservative Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the powers of the Canadian Government to control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians or to equalize opportunities among the regions. Therefore, the petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and to allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty on behalf of a group of citizens from the communities of Shellbrook and Holbein near Prince Albert to present to this House a petition which concerns itself with the free trade agreement.

These petitioners suggest that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised in the course of these negotiations that

Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised. They feel that since it does affect the fabric of Canadian sovereignty that Parliament should dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition signed by various residents of the City of Thunder Bay. They note that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States, that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised in the course of the bilateral trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised, but that the trade agreement negotiated by the Government threatens the very fabric of Canadian political and economic sovereignty by removing the power of the Canadian Government to effectively control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians and to equalize opportunity between the regions. Given this impact on Canada's policy freedom to determine our own economic future, these petitioners call on the Parliament of Canada to dissolve to give them the opportunity of rejecting the trade agreement in a national general election.

OPPOSITION TO BILL C-55—REFUGEE DETERMINATION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and the responsibility on behalf of constituents from York West and constituents in various parts of Metro Toronto, Hamilton and Oshawa to present to the House and to the Government petitions relating to the Government's Bill C-55 which will reform the country's refugee determination system and is pending a ministerial decision. These petitioners are asking the Government to re-evaluate the safe third country concept and the prescreening stage that has been adopted to go along with the new reforms. The petitioners are asking for the Government to reconsider those tenets as parts of a major overhaul to ensure that our system is expedient, fair and effective.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, it is my pleasure to present a petition which has been properly certified by the Clerk of Petitions.

This petition is from a number of residents of Canada in the Ottawa area. They point out that the free trade agreement which is the subject of legislation in the House was negotiated with no mandate from the Canadian people, that it calls into question the future sovereignty of Canada, that it compromises the ability of Canadians to ensure our economic future and it undermines our ability to produce a society distinct from the American society. Therefore, these petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement through a national general election.