

Petitions

number of constituents in Vancouver East, particularly those living in the Chinatown area of my riding. The petitioners feel that the federal Government's decision, through the Canadian Transport Commission, to locate the transfer point for dangerous goods in the riding of Vancouver East presents an extremely hazardous situation for residents and workers in the surrounding vicinity which, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is a very densely populated downtown area. The petitioners are very concerned that this transfer point be changed. They also ask that the Canadian Transport Commission finalize a permanent solution to the movement of hazardous commodities which will be acceptable to the citizens of greater Vancouver and the region.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): My second petition is one we continue to receive. It is signed by residents of Port Coquitlam, Burnaby, White Rock and New Westminster. They again ask the federal Government to withdraw its plans to change the Patent Act which they feel would be very damaging to Canadian citizens, that it would raise the price of drugs and is also another example of the Canadian Government's concessions to the United States in the free trade negotiations.

CANADA POST—MAIL SERVICE—ROSSPORT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which has been certified correct as to form and content according to Standing Order 106. It is signed by the business people of the hamlet of Rosspport in northwestern Ontario. The petitioners call upon Parliament to allow for the continuance of a small post office within Rosspport and the hiring of a postperson for same.

• (1520)

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, by the authority vested in me by virtue of my election to the House of Commons, I consider it my duty and honour to present to the House seven petitions, each containing the names of 25 Canadians who request that the Government rescind the tariff which it imposed on imported books in the English language. The petitioners call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry. It compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations. All the petitions have been certified by the Clerk.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty as well to present to the House a few petitions duly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. These petitions originate from people in Belleville, Ontario, in Vancouver, British Columbia—a region with which you are

very familiar, Mr. Speaker, certainly among the most beautiful in Canada—and from Ottawa.

[*English*]

The petitioners humbly pray that Parliament rescind the tariff on books. This tariff threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Pursuant to Standing Order 106, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table petitions humbly calling upon the Government to rescind the tariff on books which is doing irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries with respect to the free trade negotiations.

[*English*]

I also have other petitions which humbly ask the Government to rescind the retaliatory tariff it has imposed on imported books in the English language which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information. This tariff has had little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States, yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, and distributors of Canada's culture. Rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries.

The undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to rescind this tariff which threatens to do irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry, and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect to the free trade negotiations.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 106, I rise to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of Victoria, Vancouver, Whitehorse, and Winnipeg concerning the retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language, which has limited the access of Canadians to literature and information. The tariff has had a negative effect on the publishing industry, penalizes Canadian consumers, and has a major deleterious effect on the opportunity of Canadians to understand the proper and important area of literature and information. I present these petitions on behalf of Canadians who are deeply concerned about this issue.

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of some 50 residents of Ontario which calls upon the Government to withdraw the retaliatory tariff on English language books, because of the negative impact it will have on the Canadian book publishing industry, and the book sellers groups in various parts of the country. It also threatens to do irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises our policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations with the United States. I have great honour in presenting this petition.