

*Petitions*

**Mr. Clark:**—should seek to counsel the Chair.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, I have the duty to present a petition on behalf of my constituents of Yellowhead, Alberta. The purpose of this petition is to indicate that these petitioners, along with thousands of Canadians, oppose the mandatory imposition of the metric system in Canada. These Canadians believe that the degree and nature of change to the Systems International metric system should be determined voluntarily in the various sectors of trade and industry by the individual firms concerned and further believe there should be minimal government interference.

Therefore, I present this petition on behalf of my constituents in the full knowledge that thousands of Canadians share their concern and are protesting mandatory imposition of metric conversion.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Ouellet:** On a question of privilege arising from the remark which has just been made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), I want to say—

**Some hon. Members:** True, true!

**Mr. Ouellet:**—that if the leader of that party has to go with cheap shots like the one which has just been given—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Ouellet:**—to establish his own position in Parliament, it is very downgrading for this institution.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

• (1510)

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down, sit down!

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I am sorry, but this is no time for debate. With one sentence on one side and one sentence on the other side, I think that equals the opportunities.

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Madam Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of a great many of my constituents in Hamilton-Wentworth who oppose the mandatory imposition of the metric system in Canada. While many of my constituents are not against metric conversion per se they feel very strongly that democracy should be brought to the system, that the conversion should be voluntary. My people believe, as I do, that if the Government of Canada can require bilingual labelling of all retail goods, then surely this same government can order tandem labelling of imperial and metric measurements, to give consumers a freedom of choice. Madam Speaker, I humbly present this petition.

**Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North):** Madam Speaker, I have the duty to present a petition on behalf of my constituents. The purpose of this petition, signed by many hundreds of citizens in

Calgary North, is to indicate to the government that the citizens of Calgary North protest the forced imposition of the metric system in Canada by order in council. The nature of the petition is to demand that this government rescind its compulsory order to impose metrication on Canadians.

The petitioners hope, Madam Speaker, that in your examination of their petition you will find the petition in order, sense the urgency and desperation of their concern, and that you might use the discretionary powers vested in you and your office to draw to the attention of the government the hardships caused by the imposition of this order in council.

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Madam Speaker, I, too, rise to present a petition on behalf of the many residents of Rosedale riding who want to show their opposition to the compulsory implementation of the metric system. Madam Speaker, they believe that the pace, degree and nature of the change to the Systems International metric system should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sections of trade and industry, and by the individual firms or industries directly concerned and with minimal government interference.

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Madam Speaker, it is my duty and privilege to rise on behalf of the citizens of Ontario, and particularly the thousands of citizens of Toronto who continue to be opposed to the mandatory imposition of the metric system in Canada. Madam Speaker, they, among the 90,000 who have signed various petitions against this matter from my area, believe that the pace, degree and nature of the change to the metric system should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sections of trade and industry, and by the individual firms or industries directly concerned, and with minimal government interference.

Madam Speaker, I pray you will find when thousands of Canadians petition this House that they are expressing themselves openly and clearly, that they prefer free choice, and that you will find this petition important enough that it be given due consideration at some point here in the chamber.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Malpeque, Prince Edward Island, and hundreds of thousands of Canadians across Canada, I would like to present this petition opposing the mandatory imposition of the metric system.

It is the firm belief of those who signed that the pace, degree and nature of the change to the SI metric system must be determined voluntarily in various sectors of industry and commerce and that the present law represents unwarranted government interference in the lives of individual Canadians.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. John Gamble (York North):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House on behalf of my constitu-