

Nevertheless, they are concerned that many Canadians from Vietnam find that it takes months, often years, to bring relatives from Vietnam to Canada as immigrants, partly because of the delays caused by the Vietnamese Government.

Therefore, the undersigned call on the House of Commons to ensure that the Canadian Government negotiates actively with Vietnam to secure an agreement providing for closer co-operation on immigration, including quicker action on Canadian sponsorships.

IMMIGRATION—REQUEST FOR EARLY HEARINGS FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from some 50 residents of Spadina who point out that Canada has established standards of refugee status determination but the existing procedures have broken down under unexpected strains. Therefore, with the support of many Canadian groups, including the Canadian Council of Churches, the Bar Association, Jewish Congress and other individuals, they ask Parliament to ensure that the Government will enact legislation that will embody the principles of fair and quick oral hearings of refugee claimants before a refugee board that is independent of the Immigration Commission, universal access to these hearings for every claimant in Canada, and adequate opportunity to arrive in Canada to make this claim.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from about 200 residents of Canada and Toronto. They point out that the Government of Canada, that is to say, the Prime Minister of Canada, has been negotiating a trade treaty with the United States for which he had no mandate from the Canadian people in the last election. It is a treaty which will reduce Canada's ability to plan the economic, social and cultural programs we need. Furthermore, contrary to what many people apparently wish, it would integrate Canada further into the North American defence industrial base.

• (1520)

For these reasons, the petitioners ask the House of Commons to ensure that a national debate takes place on the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal and that this debate result in a national general election before an agreement is signed.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mrs. Jennifer Cossitt (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, I have the duty and honour to present a petition signed by some 3,200 constituents from my riding, and from people outside of my riding. It states that wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to pass legislation to protect unborn Canadian children from conception onward, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Petitions

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have the responsibility and privilege to present a petition signed by many residents of Quesnel, British Columbia, and the following communities in New Brunswick, Fredericton, Macnaquac, Temperancevale, Melville, Canterbury, and Truro, Nova Scotia and in Ontario, Thorold, Hamilton, Toronto, Brampton, Sudbury, Willowdale, Guelph, White Fish, and Stratford.

The petitioners claim that this Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a trade agreement with the United States. In fact, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised in the course of the so-called bilateral trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised. They claim, in fact, that the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic and cultural future and would indeed undermine its ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has great respect for the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) in presenting this petition, but I have been listening carefully and I think we are to be reminded that the statement given at the time of presentation is to be brief and not to be necessarily argumentative. I would ask the Hon. Member to conclude his remarks.

Mr. Rodriguez: The petitioners call upon this Government, since it does not have a mandate to implement this agreement, to dissolve Parliament and call upon the people of Canada, giving them the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement with the United States in a general election.

OPPOSITION TO BILL C-72—OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition prepared and sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wyndham of Acme, Alberta. The petitioners, mostly from Acme, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to cancel Bill C-72 so that unilingual speaking people will have a chance for a position in Government. As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

[*Translation*]

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of some 706 constituents in Hull—Aylmer who humbly ask Parliament to pass a bill granting all unborn children full legal protection from the moment of conception.