Questions on the Order Paper

CANADIAN ADVISORY GROUP ON HYDROGEN OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honoured to present a petition, duly certified, signed by 101 of my constituents in Scarborough East and the senior alumni participants in the lecture series "Canadian Perspectives" recently held at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

We are all deeply concerned about the adverse effects on Canada's environment due to the use of carbon-based fossil fuels which results in the continuing escalation of acid rain and the greenhouse effect. These Canadians and myself call upon Parliament to implement the recommendations in the report of the Canadian Advisory Group on Hydrogen Opportunities entitled "Hydrogen—National Mission for Canada".

[Translation]

LABELLING OF FOOD INGREDIENTS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, they say that the more things change, the more they stay the same. This time, it gives me great pleasure to table a petition.

[English]

It is a pleasure but I hope something is done about it. I am presenting a petition from the undersigned residents on the issue of food labelling. I am pleased that the new Member for Kent (Mr. Crawford) is also taking up this issue.

The petition is signed by 4,000 people from across Canada who are calling upon the Government of Canada to require proper labelling of ingredients in restaurants so that people can realize that when they have a meal outside their home they do not have to play Russian roulette with their lives as in the case of the Chinnick family, Christian Taylor and others. I hope this time the Tories do something about it.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the item under Routine Proceedings entitled "Questions on the Order Paper", I notice that there are no questions on the Order Paper. Is it the bad record of the Government in answering questions that has made MPs decide not to ask any more

questions or is the Government trying to tell us that there are no questions to be answered at all?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board) and Acting President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, in fact it is the contrary. We are doing so well that there can be no question as to how we are governing. People said that on November 21.

Mr. Speaker: I know that the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) will realize that the Chair has to put the item in any event.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

ALLEGED LAY-OFFS RESULTING FROM CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 52 to ask leave to move a motion for an emergency debate. You will recall I moved a similar motion on Wednesday. The reason is that there have been some 2,400 announced lay-offs since election day that have been attributed in people's judgment to the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement as of January 1, 1989, or shortly thereafter. At the same time the Government has not announced its intention to bring in programs which will be designed to aid the workers and the communities affected. Therefore, there is what can only be called from our point of view an emergency or crisis situation. Men and women are being laid off. The Government has no specific programs and intends to recess the House for a couple of months. We were told that the chairman of the committee allegedly dealing with such a problem would not have anything ready until June.

When Your Honour ruled against this on Wednesday, you did so after the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) had said in the House during Question Period that there would be an interim report by the committee on Friday of this week. We now know that we have no such interim report and we believe we drew the right conclusion. The Prime Minister was telling us that there would be an interim report. The Government is now contending that it was just going to discuss the report.