

Bill C-155, the Crow legislation, be amended to allow grain producers the option of either receiving their share in the Crow benefit as a producer payment, or electing to have it paid on their behalf to the railways. The purpose of this petition therefore is to express their concern with the present provisions of Bill C-155. The freedom of choice concept will guarantee the consensus which the Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport said they were seeking. And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

● (1550)

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from residents of the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy. Wherefore the undersigned have considered the alternative plan by the New Democratic Party on the Crow rate, which must be maintained. Also, considering that the railways of Canada must be upgraded and developed into a modern, efficient transportation system, they pray and call upon Parliament to adopt the provisions of the New Democratic Party's alternative plan which will not change the Crowsnest Pass freight rate. As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray. It is signed by residents of Lashburn, Saskatchewan, and Ottawa and Hull.

[*Translation*]

MR. HAWKES—PROMOTION OF GAME OF CHESS

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I have the duty to present a petition signed by over 284 Canadians across the country on behalf of more than four millions of their fellow citizens who enjoy the self-discipline and intellectual stimulus provided by the game of chess. The purpose of this petition is to point out to the Federal Government the absolute necessity to follow the example of many provincial and national governments and to recognize in the game of chess a universal form of cultural expression combining physical with mental excellence.

[*English*]

The purpose of this petition is to ask the Secretary of State (Mr. Joyal) to change departmental policy to include measures to promote chess and consequently physical and mental excellence. The petitioners hope, Mr. Speaker, that in your examination of their petition you will find it in order, sense the urgency of their plea, and use the discretionary powers vested in your office to allow discussion and referral to committee at the earliest possible moment. On a previous petition there were over 1,000 signatures, Mr. Speaker, and I hope you use your office to refer this matter to committee. It has been dragging on for several years.

Petitions

MR. MCKENZIE—CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, the undersigned citizens of the Dominion of Canada now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your Honourable House will therefor provide a remedy.

Whereas there exists a crisis of confidence in the Government of Canada and this might best be solved by calling a general election immediately, we the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to take whatever action may be necessary to restore confidence in the Government of Canada. As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. McGRATH—LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by citizens of this country exercising their ancient right. The petition refers to a serious crisis of confidence in the Government of this country. If you read through the ancient form of the petition, in short it calls upon this House to vote non-confidence in this Government.

MR. BENJAMIN—RETENTION OF CROWSNEST PASS RATES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a petition to this House. The undersigned residents of Canada now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right. I must add this with all due modesty, Mr. Speaker—

An Hon. Member: You have lots to be modest about.

Mr. Benjamin: —but these 98 petitioners from Spirit River, Rycroft and Grand Prairie, Alberta, have carefully considered the alternative plan presented by the NDP and Les Benjamin, MP for Regina West—wasn't that nice of them? They urge the Parliament of Canada to adopt the provisions in order that the statutory Crowsnest Pass freight rates may be maintained and that the railways of all Canada be upgraded and developed into a modern and efficient transportation system. The undersigned have carefully considered this alternative plan and do ever humbly pray that the House of Commons and Government will act upon it.

MR. FRASER—CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, the undersigned citizens of the Dominion of Canada now avail themselves of their ancient undoubted right to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefor provide a remedy. The petition refers to the need for an immediate national election. Therefore, we the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to take whatever action may be necessary to restore confidence in the Government of Canada and, as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.