

Questions on the Order Paper

presenting the petition should make the request specific and not prolong the argument, effective and full as it no doubt was.

Mr. Riis: I thought you were preoccupied in the Chair, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps not paying too much attention.

I will summarize by saying that the petitioners are asking that a national debate take place on the trade deal and that this debate result in a national general election.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106 I have the duty and honour to present a petition from several of my constituents who are opposed to the trade deal, who are worried about the trade deal, and who feel that it can only be passed as a result of an election. Therefore, the petitioners call upon the Government to pull the plug and go to the polls like yesterday!

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I wish to present six petitions from people in the Province of Ontario who state that Canadian sovereignty is threatened by the trade deal, the Government has no mandate, Canada's ability to plan is threatened, and the trade deal would integrate Canada into a North American defence industrial base. Therefore, the petitioners call for a national debate which would end in an election before such an agreement is signed.

REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition today from residents of Scarborough, North York, Don Mills, Toronto, Burlington, and Etobicoke concerning the Rouge Valley in Scarborough. The petitioners state that it is a unique, precious, and natural area that needs protecting because of the endangered wildlife wilderness areas, and it is in the national interest to do so.

I join with the Scarborough City Council and the petitioners. The City Council of Scarborough is meeting tonight to amend the official plan to accommodate a park. The petitioners call upon Parliament to work with the Province of Ontario in establishing the Rouge River Valley as Canadian heritage land or provincial park.

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition in which the petitioners indicate that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States. The Prime Minister promised that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised. By removing the power of the Canadian Government to exclusively control foreign ownership, to develop Canadian energy resources in the best interests of Canadians, and to equalize opportunities between the regions, the proposed trade agreement would deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future. The proposed trade agreement not only denies Canadians secure

access to the U.S. market, but threatens the loss of hundreds of thousands of Canadian jobs.

Therefore, the undersigned petitioners call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition duly certified from a number of Canadians. The petitioners are concerned that the Conservative Government had no mandate to conclude a trade agreement with the United States, and point out the negative effects of that trade agreement.

Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to dissolve and allow the people of Canada the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed free trade agreement during a national general election.

● (1200)

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which has been duly certified under Standing Order 106, and comes from people in my constituency, especially in the areas of La Salle, Windsor, Belle River, Tilbury, and indicates to the Government that they believe that the Conservative Government had no mandate from the Canadian people to conclude a trade deal with the United States, that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised in the course of trade negotiations that Canadian sovereignty would not be compromised, and yet the trade agreement would in fact deny Canada the policy freedom to determine its own economic future and would therefore undermine our ability to build a society distinct from that of the United States. They therefore call on this Government to dissolve Parliament and to permit the people of Canada a chance to have their say on this issue.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have the pleasure to present a petition signed by a number of electors, this time from Nova Scotia. It is a petition that has been properly certified by the Clerk of Petitions. These petitioners, like many on both sides of the free trade issue—those in favour and those opposed—agree, as indicated in this petition, that the agreement should not come into force until there has been an election held to provide the mandate that did not exist at the time that the accord was signed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 329, 363 and 366.