

Petitions

assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth that negotiations between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada in the 19th Century regarding the demarcation of the boundary between Canada and the United States were conducted under duress, and that the boundary fixed at the 49th parallel north of the equator has no force in law, and that the area bounded by the 42nd parallel north of the equator and the 49th parallel north of the equator and west of the continental divide does not legitimately belong to the United States although that country now defines this region as comprising the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada to unilaterally reject the treaty that fixed the boundary between Canada and the United States at the 49th parallel north of the equator and undertake negotiations with the United States for the return of Oregon, Washington and Idaho according to the norms of international law that were so grievously violated in the nineteenth Century. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. SKELLY—TESTING OF CRUISE MISSILE ON CANADIAN SOIL

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition to the honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Province of Ontario, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that the present arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union is sheer madness, that Canada should not allow itself to be pressured into following American foreign policy.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to state outright now that Canada will not allow Cruise missile testing over its soil nor the manufacture of any components for the Cruise missile. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray. I would like to recommend that petition to the House.

MR. SKELLY—DISCRIMINATION ON POLITICAL GROUNDS

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to introduce a further petition to the House of Commons which all Parties, especially the Government, should consider. It is addressed to the honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of the Province of Ontario, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that a person's political beliefs should not be used to justify barring a person from housing, employment or social services.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to include political beliefs in the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as a prohibited ground for discrimination. As in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

MR. SKELLY—CALL FOR SALARY INCREASES FOR MP'S STAFFS

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that, whereas the salary budget for staff of Members of Parliament is frozen until August 3, 1984, under the six and five program, and that MP's were not informed of the freeze until well into the first year of the program, and that as a result most MP's staffs will not receive any salary increases during 1983 and most of 1984, therefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to increase salaries of staffs of Members of Parliament so that these employees are able to meet the financial arrangements they entered into based on salary increases MP's and staff were led to expect. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray. This is signed by a number of residents of the Province of Ontario.

MR. SKELLY—RETENTION OF CROWSNEST PASS RATES

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition which is addressed to the honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth that the western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop years. This grain, in turn, contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay one times Crow, no charge.

Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow grain freight rate. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

This is signed by numerous individuals from across the Province of Saskatchewan, and in order to reassure the Hon. Member for St. Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), let me say that, to the best of my knowledge, the signatures are all different.

MR. SKELLY—OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present another petition on a matter of vital concern to residents on the West Coast of Canada. It is addressed to the honourable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, 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, humbly sheweth that oil companies, particularly Chevron of Canada, are considering a resumption of offshore exploration of oil and gas on the West Coast. The Federal Government is considering lifting the moratorium on offshore oil exploration on the West Coast that has existed there for many, many years, and