

Canada Elections Act

● (1110)

[English]

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW TARIFF ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOOKS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have with me today, pursuant to Standing Order 106, many petitions which are calling for the removal of the offensive tax on reading which is both discriminatory and a disincentive to our population. The petition reads:

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on imported books in the English language which has limited access to Canadians to literature and information, and;

WHEREAS the tariff has little negative effect on the publishing industry of the United States, yet penalizes Canada's consumers, book publishers, book sellers, distributors and Canada's culture, and;

WHEREAS rising book prices have placed a strain on the book acquisition programs and policies of our nation's public and specialized libraries.

WHEREFORE the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to: rescind this tariff which threatens irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and compromises federal policy on cultural industries in respect of free trade negotiations.

I have thousands of names. People from Glencoe, Ontario, Collingwood, Ontario, Calgary, Grand Forks, Toronto, Vancouver, Hanover, Ontario, Winnipeg, Windsor and Marine Drive, Vancouver. The petitioners are from across the land and each and every one of them from Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal and the Northwest Territories hope that the Government will listen to and heed their plea to remove the tax on reading.

RESEARCH—OPPOSITION TO CUT-BACKS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present, the first from petitioners from across Canada. They call upon the Parliament of Canada, first to rescind the funding cut-backs to the National Research Council, including all consequent terminations and cut-backs in research activities, second, to provide funding for the space program from sources other than the National Research Council's budget and, third, to develop a national policy for research, science and technology based upon a target of 2.5 per cent of the gross national product devoted to research and development.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from constituents in my riding in the Wynyard, Dafoe and Mozart area who call upon Parliament to reject proposals before the House now that will, in their opinion, increase the price of prescription drugs. They call upon the Parliament of Canada to reject that legislation.

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Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of residents from a wide-ranging number of communities in Canada, from

Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Mississauga, Ottawa and parts of Nova Scotia. The petition concerns the proposal of the Government to impose a tax on the book publishing industry. The tariff that has been achieved is seen by these petitioners as one that will have a severe deleterious effect on our book publishing industry. It will cause a major rise in book prices, place a strain on our libraries by a cut-back of budgets and, therefore, the petitioners present and humbly pray that Parliament to rescind this tariff because it represents irreparable harm to the Canadian book industry and will severely compromise in many ways the cultural industries as we negotiate a new trade arrangement with the United States.

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO PATENT ACT

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of a number of petitioners mostly from my home constituency and surrounding areas. I add these names to the hundreds of names that have already been presented on this particular issue. These petitioners call upon the Government to withdraw or reject the proposals which will increase prescription drug prices for all Canadians. They recognize that these proposals are already before Parliament.

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Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 106 I would like to present petitions at this time from residents of Vancouver, West Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and other centres on Vancouver Island. They relate to the Government's decision to place a retaliatory tariff on book imports, and state that this measure is hurting Canadians much more than it is hurting Americans. It is limiting the access of Canadians to literature and information from very important sources.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-246, an Act to amend the Canada Elections Act, sale of liquor.

Some Hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce, and I wish to emphasize the word "re-introduce", my private Member's Bill of March, 1986, from the first session of the 33rd Parliament, entitled an Act to Amend the Canada Elections Act repealing Section 67 which prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages during federal elections and federal by-elections.