

Order Paper Questions

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray Parliament to increase immediately the amounts given for co-operative housing assistance.

OPPOSITION TO TAX ON FOOD

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106, I have the pleasure of tabling a petition signed by residents of the National Capital Region. They humbly declare that:

whereas since September, 1984, the federal Government has imposed on Canadian taxpayers 25 new taxes or tax increases, in particular on medical and dental supplies, snack foods, candy and soft drinks;

whereas the federal Government in its tax reform proposal is studying the possibility of imposing on Canadians a general tax on goods and services, including food;

whereas food constitutes a vital element in day-to-day life and the imposition of this tax would have the effect of seriously penalizing certain categories of taxpayers such as the aged, families, unemployed, low-income taxpayers, youth, et cetera;

wherefore the undersigned petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject all measures that would have the effect of imposing a sales tax on food products.

• (1110)

[English]

FERMI II NUCLEAR REACTOR—REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have another petition in a long series of petitions which have been presented from my constituency with respect to the serious dangers of the Fermi II nuclear reactor in Michigan.

This particular petition is signed by residents of Windsor, Essex, Harrow, Woodslee, Tecumseh, Oldcastle, as well as Anderton and Amherstburg. The petitioners call very strongly for a Canadian presence with the United States to review the safety measures which exist for this nuclear reactor before it is permitted to go to full operation.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

POSTAL SERVICES CONTINUATION ACT, 1987

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Wednesday, October 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Cadieux, that Bill C-86, an Act to provide for the resumption and continuation of postal services, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) has completed his speech. The question and comment period following the Hon. Member's speech is now available to Members.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon) said he had spent some time on the picket line in Windsor. Would he indicate what he learned about the unusual and unfair way Canada Post has been treating those employees who are not directly involved in the Government's attempt to destroy CUPW?

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): First, I thank my colleague for the spontaneous question.

There are casual workers for the Post Office in my constituency who are not part of this strike, not part of the picket lines and do not receive strike pay. Yet, when they reported to Canada Post facilities last night to receive their pay cheques, they were told that they were not to get those cheques until the strike was finished.

They were further told that they were trespassing on private property by trying to go to the formal area where, during previous strikes, they normally received their weekly cheques as casual workers.

These workers are most often people who face particular financial difficulties. They are often single parents or workers who have been able to pick up this casual job after being unemployed. This money is absolutely crucial to them, particularly because they do not get strike pay and do not have the possibility of receiving unemployment insurance quickly after the refusal by their employer to honour work which they have already done.

Such a practice is absolutely inexcusable and demonstrates the extremely poor management practices of Canada Post. It is the reason that strikes such as this, which have been so devastating to the postal service in this country, have become commonplace.

We have also been told by union officials that this is not an isolated example, limited to Windsor itself, but is something that is actually being applied across the country. Casual workers who have already put in their time to Canada Post are unable to get their pay cheques which are quite properly due to