

Petitions

● (1600)

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from the Town of Biggar, Saskatchewan, with the Village of Duperow, a Town which has been built—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: New York is big, but this is bigger.

Mr. Ogle: Right on. It is a town which has been built over the years on both grain transportation—

Madam Speaker: Order, order. Will the Hon. Member simply read the petition.

Mr. Ogle: The people of Biggar, Saskatchewan, Madam Speaker, to the Honourable House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the citizens of Canada now exercise their right to present a grievance and humbly sheweth that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. And this grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe this is the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western farmers will pay no more. Wherefore, the undersigned, our petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray. I am happy to present this to the House of Commons.

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to present on behalf of a number of citizens of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, a petition to the House of Commons in which the petitioners exercise an ancient right to present a grievance, that being that western Canadian farmers have paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year, and that this grain in turn contributed \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade in Canada. The farmers of these communities feel that this is a fair contribution to the Canadian economy and that western Canadian farmers should pay no more than the existing Crow rate. They have submitted this petition in accordance with their ancient right to do so.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Madam Speaker, again I have received a petition from residents of Canada, some 38 of whom are from Southey, Raymore, Keliher, Leross and Lestock, Saskatchewan—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Simply read the petition, please.

Mr. Benjamin:—and wish to exercise their right to present a grievance. They are willing to pay one times the Crow rate, and they believe this to be the farmers' fair contribution to the Canadian economy. Your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, it is my duty and honour this afternoon to present a petition from residents of Kamsack, Verigin and Preeceville, Saskatchewan, in regard to the high rate of farm bankruptcies, 130 per cent up this year over the same period

last year, and their wish to maintain the present statutory Crow rate. Western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. This grain in turn contributed some \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade. The undersigned believe that this is the farmers' fair share of contribution to the Canadian economy, and the western farmers will pay one times Crow, which is no change. Your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present on behalf of 43 members of the community of New Norway in Alberta a petition in which they exercise their right to present a grievance. Western Canadian farmers have contributed massively to the economy of the country. They feel that that is a fair contribution. They are willing to pay one times Crow. Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Madam Speaker, I have a petition from another Hutterite colony. I underline again the fantastic contribution that this group of people have made to agriculture in western Canada. This colony addresses itself to the Honourable, the House of Commons in Parliament assembled. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to exercise a grievance, humbly show that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the crop year 1981-82. They feel that this contribution of \$6.3 billion to the balance of trade is their fair contribution to the economy of Canada. Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the Parliament to maintain the present statutory Crow rate.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, I have a petition with several names on it from Pelly Saskatchewan and Kamsack, Saskatchewan. It is my honour to present to the House of Commons in Parliament assembled the petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, stating that western Canadian farmers paid \$131 million to move export grain under the Crow freight rate in the 1981-82 crop year. 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, that is, no change. Wherefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the present statutory grain Crow rate, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of 33 residents of the Towns of Schuler and Craik in southeast Saskatchewan. The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada, who now exercise their right to present a grievance, humbly sheweth