

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, February 16, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

### INDUSTRY

#### PETITION RESPECTING FUTURE OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton):** Madam Speaker, I rise to remind the House of the fact that I recently tabled in the House of Commons a petition containing 11,000 names, which petition is an indication of the concern of people for the future of the petrochemical industry.

True to the generosity of spirit of the people who signed such petition, they were not seeking short and long-term assistance for the oil based petrochemical industry alone, but for the petrochemical industry as a whole. These people are also realistic enough to appreciate that a Government decision based on the task force report will take some time because there is not unanimity of approach, and any such decision must take into account the views expressed by the oil based and gas based petrochemical industries, plus the concerns of Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta, and the fact that inappropriate action could lead to countervailing measures from the United States.

The people concerned and the people employed in this industry, however, have a right to expect an early decision, and hopefully one that provides for short-term and long-term assistance.

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### BALTIC EVENING

#### CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF HONORARY CONSULS

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, prior to the changing of the Standing Orders there was a Motion under Standing Order 43 last year which was joined in by the Member for London West (Mr. Burghardt), and the Hon. Member for Dauphin (Mr. Lewycky), which read in these terms:

That this House, in recognition of the contribution to Canada of Canadians of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian descent, welcome their honorary consul and representatives of the respective communities to the Tenth Annual Baltic Evening on Parliament Hill.

That motion was accepted unanimously at that time by the House. It is no longer possible for us to move such a Motion, but it is appropriate that, on the occasion of the Eleventh Annual Baltic Evening on Parliament Hill, all Members of Parliament commemorate the contribution to Canada of Canadians of Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian descent, and on their behalf I make this request.

For many years it has been the wish of countless Canadians that the Honorary Consuls of Estonia and Latvia join the Honorary Consul of Lithuania and be recognized in the diplomatic corps publications of the Government of Canada. I know that this request is supported by Members of all Parties in this House as a simple yet profound method of honouring those Canadians who walk among us as living reminders of the importance of our rights and freedoms as Canadians.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### SUPPORT FOR CANAGREX LEGISLATION

**Mr. Maurice Bossy (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Madam Speaker, the farmers of my constituency of Kent, joining their brothers and sisters across the country, wish to express their support once again for Bill C-85, an Act to create Canagrex, and to urge the Government to put this Crown export agency in place as soon as possible.

Since this piece of legislation was introduced into the House over a year ago, the support for Canagrex has become more and more evident. Recently, in convention, the 200,000 strong membership of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture once again expressed their support for an agricultural products export agency and its immediate need. The farmers of this country feel, as I do, that agriculture is the industry which can help put our economy back on its feet. The time has come to give the people of Canada an export mechanism to do just that and give this nation an opportunity to expand its agri-food international trade market.

This piece of legislation has been before the House for almost 14 months now. It has spent four months before the Standing Committee on Agriculture where it received 14 amendments. Bill C-85 has been talked about enough; it is now time to act. The farmers of the country look forward to its immediate passage.