

Petitions

PETITIONS

IMPOSITION OF METRIC SYSTEM

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to the House 135,327 signatures on a petition against the forced implementation of the metric system. This petition is 36 inches wide, three and a half miles long and weighs 247 pounds.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Domm: This is one of the largest petitions ever presented to the House of Commons. It is to be added to the 24,000 signatures which I presented last year.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order. When the Chair rises, hon. members know that they must resume their seats. Hon. members cannot have it both ways. If they have given the page the petitions, which I assume were in the envelopes—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That was just part of it.

Madam Speaker: The roll and the envelopes. If they are all original signatures, that is fine. I cannot say that that is not a petition if the hon. member tells me it is.

An hon. Member: That's what it is.

Madam Speaker: I thought that the envelopes contained signatures and that the rolls contained other signatures.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Bring it in.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: There they go, to the internment camp!

Madam Speaker: It takes the pages and four MPs to carry that petition! I wonder what that means.

Mr. Andre: Thirty cents a letter, too.

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, I would like this petition of 135,327 signatures to be added to the 52,000 signatures which have already been presented to this House, making a grand total to date, in less than 12 months, of 187,327 signatures.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Domm: This petition was gathered, put together and signed by Barbara Amiel, Peter Worthington—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Taylor: Laugh at the people if you like.

Mr. Domm:—Robert MacDonald, A. Donato, Anti-Metric Canada, Operation HUMBUG, Measure Canadian and the staff and management of *The Toronto Sun*.

Mr. Chénier: Oh, *The Toronto Sun!*

Mr. Domm: This is the petition of the undersigned residents of the federal ridings of Peterborough, Carleton-Charlotte, Capilano, Red Deer, Don Valley West, Scarborough East, York North, Ontario, Rosedale, Etobicoke Centre, Mississauga South, Calgary West, Hamilton-Wentworth, Victoria-Haliburton, Brampton-Georgetown, Parry Sound-Muskoka, Crowfoot, Edmonton North, Edmonton South, Edmonton-Strathcona, Edmonton West, Pembina, Wetaskiwin, Yellowhead, Okanagan-Similkameen, Bow River, Calgary Centre, Calgary East, Calgary North, Calgary South, Malpeque, in the provinces of Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that this honourable House will therefore provide a remedy.

We oppose the mandatory imposition of the SI Metric system in Canada; and we believe the pace, degree and nature of change to the SI metric should and must be determined voluntarily in the various sectors of trade and industry by the individual firms or industries directly concerned and with minimal government interference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Domm: I urge this Liberal government seriously to consider these 135,327 signatures and add them to the 52,000 of 1981, making the grand total of 187,327.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ouellet: Madam Speaker, on a question of privilege—

An hon. Member: We are not on privilege!

Mr. Ouellet: Madam Speaker, the petition presented today is the result of false and misleading representations and information given—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: I am afraid that is not a debatable question.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): We have concluded that is not true.

Madam Speaker: The petition will be read by the Clerk of Petitions and if it is in conformity with our rules, it will be accepted.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, in rising to present a petition, I should remark that it is not unusual that an hon. member who has, in the past, counselled judges—

Mr. Ouellet: Order.