

with all recommendations of this subcommittee as detailed by the subcommittee report forthwith.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have another petition, again signed by hundreds of residents of British Columbia, noting that the railway passenger service as carried on by VIA Rail is essential for many Canadians and has been a part of Canada for more than 100 years.

They object to the cuts to the VIA Rail budget and service. They call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment, and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger rail service in Canada.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to present a petition, pursuant to Standing Order 36, on behalf of the residents of Logan Lake, Lac le Jeune, Rose Hill, Knutford, Monty Creek, Monty Lake, Westwold, Pillar Lake, Chase, Pritchard, Dallas, Valleyview, Barnettville, Red Lake, Deadman's Creek, Louis Creek, and Pinantan Lake.

All of the petitioners point out that the government's proposed goods and services tax is very unfair and that 69,000 profitable corporations pay no income tax.

They do not see any reason why they should be punished now with this cruel and brutal goods and services tax, so they are asking the government to back off.

I have another petition, Mr. Speaker. These petitioners from Kamloops, Calgary, and Ottawa point out again that the government has decided to tax magazines, books, newspapers, and children's story books. They feel that taxing children's story books is at an all-time low in terms of a government that is gouging people for taxes.

They are asking the government to come to its senses and stop taxing literature because we will be the only country in the world that does so if the government continues along this course.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise again in this House, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition signed by several people from all over the place. They are petitioning Parliament to reject the

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proposal for a goods and services tax, to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations and to cause the government to cease with the proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform. Wise words, Mr. Speaker, wise words.

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• (1530)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Shall all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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BILL C-78

POWERS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, there has been some concern among the members of the House for some time now regarding the special committee established by the House to pre-study Bill C-78. As a result of those discussions, I know you will find unanimous consent for the following motion:

That, notwithstanding any special order of the House, the Special Committee of this House established on Wednesday, June 27, 1990 to pre-study Bill C-78, an Act to establish a federal and environmental assessment process, have all the powers Standing Order 113(5) confers on legislative committees.