

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 23, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

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*Prayers*

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[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the business of the day commences, I feel obliged to refer to comments I made following the point of order by the hon. member for Saint-Denis yesterday and a point of order that was supported by the hon. member for Burnaby—Kingsway.

I want to make it very clear to the House that my comments meant no reflection whatsoever on the House or the House leadership. I also am prepared to acknowledge that whatever my views might have been at the moment, I probably went further than a Speaker should. The rule remains the same; this House can do by consent what it wishes to do. I am sorry if I have caused any undue anxiety for any of the House leadership. That was not my intention.

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

#### PETITIONS

##### NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 36 I would like to present four petitions, in which the petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the report of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas. The petitioners are residents of my riding of Cochrane—Superior, from the towns of Manitouwadge and Cochrane.

On behalf of the 278 petitioners who rely on this tax benefit, I must reiterate the importance of this deduction to northern communities. The government is presently studying the report and it is imperative that it reject the recommendation presented in this same report.

##### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, the pleasure and, in fact, the duty to table today a petition in this House, signed by residents from a number of communities in my riding, including Prince George, Vanderhoof, McBride, Burns Lake, Willow River, Cluculz Lake and Penny. The petitioners express concerns about this government's policy as it relates to taxation, specifically, their opposition to the goods and services tax.

They hope and pray that this Parliament, including the Liberals in the Senate, will do its best to try to defeat this tax.

##### WHARFS AND HARBOURS

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to rise, under Standing Order 36, to present a petition, signed by many residents in my riding who are concerned about the maintenance of wharfs and harbours in Prince Edward Island.

The petition states that whereas, the Government of Canada has a duty to provide properly maintained wharfs and harbours; whereas many of the wharfs in Prince Edward Island are in a deplorable and unsafe state and require major repair; and whereas the fisheries is one of the most important industries on Prince Edward Island, these petitioners ask the government to proceed with the necessary maintenance and repair and ensure the safety, in future, of the fishery in Prince Edward Island.

##### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to table a petition which has been certified correct as to form and content by the clerk of petitions.

The petition is signed by a number of residents of the province of Ontario, including people from Toronto, Burlington, Simcoe, Hamilton, Brantford, Scotland, Waterford, and Cayuga.

All of the petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are opposed to the goods and services tax. They point out that the government is now trying to tax reading, haircuts, diapers, coffins, and home heating fuels and, perhaps, depending