rules and regulations of the House of Commons. The first one is with respect to the goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out that this is the 34th tax increase—they note, another one. They also identified that it contributes to higher taxes, higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

They appeal and ask the government to have the decency to withdraw a tax that hurts seniors, students, small businesses and others.

EDUCATION

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, my second petition is with respect to education.

The petitioners point out that the government has reduced the transfers to provinces by $485 million. They are alarmed at the closing of campus employment centres, which they feel is a detriment to their employment possibilities and they are particularly angry at the 3 per cent tax on student loans.

I do not know if you knew this, Madam Speaker, but you have to put the cash out front before you can get the loan. It makes a mockery out of what the government talks about; learning, culture and competitiveness.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House petitions from my constituency of Hamilton Mountain and from other ridings in Canada. These petitioners support their right to collective bargaining.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to continue to reject the imposition of wage controls and reaffirm support for free, collective bargaining for Canadian workers.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Madam Speaker, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of residents of Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to support the NDP plan to restore VIA Rail service cut on January 15, 1990, to maintain where appropriate upgrade remote services upon which many Canadians rely and provide a legislative mandate for VIA Rail and to make available to VIA the resources which it needs to become a modern passenger rail system in a class with those throughout the rest of the western world. They want to put Canada back on track.

YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege today to present petitions signed by the Croatian community of the city I represent, Thunder Bay.

They implore this government to show their deep concern about the fate of the families and their compatriots who are suffering today in Yugoslavia and in particular, Croatia.

What the petitioners are trying to say in essence through their petition is that the Canadian government should realize its obligations in its peacekeeping roles that have been consistent throughout Canada's history since 1956 in its role in the UN, take its obligation seriously, provide the peacekeeping efforts that are so necessary to bring peace and order to Croatia, and recognize the independence and sovereignty of such a nation.

I have the privilege to present this petition on behalf of the Croatian community from Thunder Bay.

SHIPBUILDING

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Madam Speaker, while I am on my feet, I would like to present the following petition with over 1,000 names from the United Steel Workers in the area of Thunder Bay. They petition this government to reconsider its program with respect to the defence contract that is pending on the mine sweeper program.

The petitioners are concerned about the viability of the future of the shipbuilding industry in Ontario. They know that if Ontario is not the recipient of part of this government contract, part of this mine sweeper program, that the shipbuilding industry in the province of Ontario could very well close down putting out all of the workers, not only the iron workers who are presently employed by the boilermakers union in Port Weller but the shipbuilding industry in Thunder Bay.

Therefore, I have the pleasure of presenting this petition on their behalf today and implore the government to act accordingly.