

*Routine Proceedings*

These petitioners ask Parliament to upgrade VIA with new equipment and make sure that the passenger train act is passed, which would allow VIA Rail to give the kind of service Canada needs.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a petition to present which was signed mainly by residents of Sackville, a community in my riding. The petitioners want to voice their opposition to the new goods and services tax. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

**Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent):** Mr. Speaker, once again I rise in the House pursuant to Standing Order 36. Whereas it has been proposed that a goods and service tax will be levied on skating lessons including instructors fees, facility rentals, equipment purchases and other related skating expenses, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to consider instruction in skating as an educational service and, therefore, exempt skating educational expenses from the proposed goods and services tax.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have the duty to table five petitions today, pursuant to Standing Order 36, which have been found correct as to form and content. These petitioners object strongly to the government's proposal to impose upon Canadians a tax of 7 per cent on all goods and services as of January 1, 1991.

These petitioners think this proposal of the government will be hidden from Canadians and, therefore, will impose a very unfair tax on all of them. The tax will be on all goods and services and will cause serious and unfair hardship for low and middle-income Canadians. The petitioners say that the GST of 7 per cent will create an onerous burden on small businesses and, therefore, strongly oppose the imposition of this goods and services tax which is, in their opinion, an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians which will hit them not only with higher taxes, but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

Gallup says that the Tories are at 17 per cent today, and they should not be doing this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever the hon. member may have read, or whatever the polls may say, he knows that the presentation of a petition is not the place to make a speech.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Well at 17 per cent they should not be doing that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is smiling. He knows well— better than most of us.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from hundreds of citizens in the constituency of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in Montreal who strongly oppose the goods and services tax which they say is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians and that it will hit them not only with higher taxes, but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment. They ask the government to withdraw this tax and to return to the drawing board.

[Translation]

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a number of Canadian voters who are opposed to the GST. Your petitioners call upon the government to withdraw the GST bill it tabled in Parliament.

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[English]

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, Question No. 226 will be answered today.

[Text]

## ADMINISTRATIVE FLIGHT SERVICES

Question No. 226—**Mr. Milliken:**

For each year from 1985 to 1989, did the government incur costs in operating its V.I.P. fleet of Challenger aircraft and, if so, in total, what were they?

**Hon. William Hunter McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** With respect to the Department of National Defence, the government incurred the following incremental costs, from 1986 to 1989, (incremental aircraft