

petitioners are getting more and more incensed because of the insensitivity of the government.

I would humbly ask the government, through you Mr. Speaker, that it consider rescinding this abhorrent goods and services tax.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I would appreciate the opportunity to present to you and to other members of the House a petition with respect to the goods and services tax.

The petitioners in a series of recitals indicate the reasons why they believe this particular tax ought to be withdrawn immediately. They point out, first, that since 1984 the Conservative government has imposed 31 new taxes or tax increases on Canadians and, since 1984, the present federal manufacturers' sales tax has been increased by the federal government from 9 per cent to 13 per cent.

The petitioners go on to say that this new tax, which will be hidden from Canadians, will be applied to virtually everything they buy, with very few exceptions. They also point out in their recitals that the imposition of the GST will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle-income Canadians and will create an onerous burden on Canadians.

They conclude by asking this government and, in particular, the Minister of Finance to come to his senses, to understand and realize the very serious harm that this tax will do to Canadians and withdraw it immediately.

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 36 to present a number of petitions that were gathered at both the Caledonia and Simcoe fairs regarding the goods and services tax.

These constituents of mine from Hagersville, Caledonia, Delhi and Fisherville, all call upon this government to reject the tax.

• (1120)

The petitioners say that the imposition of this tax will create an onerous burden on small businesses and are concerned about its effect on small businesses. They call upon this government to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

Routine Proceedings

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): We will therefore revert to Motions. The hon. member for Comox—Alberni.

* * *

[*English*]

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

CONCURRENCE IN THIRD REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, presented to the House on Tuesday, June 19, 1990, be concurred in.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your interest in putting this motion to a vote, because I think it should be voted on by this House. It is an extremely important motion, and I think that once I explain the reasons for presenting it today, the House will want to submit it to a vote prior to the recessing of the session at the lunch hour.

As members will know, the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs submitted its report in June of this year on the exiles of Grise Fiord in the Northwest Territories, after hearing direct evidence from the Inuit people involved in that incident.

The evidence dealt with the suffering that 15 Inuit families experienced when they were uprooted from their home in northern Quebec and moved to the high Arctic outposts of Grise Fiord and Resolute between 1953 and 1957.

The committee heard evidence from these Inuit families and people who had spent time at Grise Fiord over a period of months. We heard direct evidence from the people involved. We also heard evidence from the Canadian authorities and from others who were involved in the experiment.

The committee heard evidence from the people who were misled by Canadian authorities as to the reasons for their move up to Grise Fiord in the Northwest Territories. We heard evidence that they had suffered grievously from disease, hunger, medical neglect and social problems as a result of that move.

We heard that even though they had been promised the opportunity to return to northern Quebec if they were not satisfied with the experiment, they were not