

Routine Proceedings

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to revoke these measures.

• (1110)

JUSTICE

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present a petition bearing the signatures of nearly 4,000 Winnipeggers, many of whom live in my riding of Winnipeg St. James.

The petitioners are deeply concerned about the plight of David Milgaard, who has been in prison for 21 years. He is serving life for murder for a crime he maintains he did not commit. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to demand that the Minister of Justice release David Milgaard forthwith or direct the courts to review his case.

This is an urgent matter. People familiar with the Milgaard case have for many months been urging the Minister of Justice to take action. Nothing has happened, causing intense frustration. Some people are at the breaking point. The petitioners implore the minister to take action now.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am honoured to present petitions on behalf of 224 Canadians from coast to coast who are concerned about the impact of the GST on the printed word, which we know is the cornerstone of democracy and literacy.

These petitioners pray that the House ask the government to reconsider its position and withdraw the GST.

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the pleasure of presenting two petitions.

In these petitions citizens are saying: Whereas the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word as the cornerstone of democracy, culture, education and a literate and productive society will be negatively affected by the GST application, we ask that the historic principles embodied in pre-tax status for the printed word be maintained by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have hundreds of signatures from Canadians, right across Ontario, objecting to the government's cancellation of the self-exile class of refugees. As an example, they point out that Ukrainians do not have any office in the Ukraine where they can apply to come to Canada. They have to go all the way to Moscow. The government agreed to open a consular office in Kiev, but to date there is no such office. They are appealing to the government to restore the self-exile class to many east Europeans who do not have full service offices in eastern Europe through which to apply.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition from Canadians right across Ontario and from other provinces, objecting strongly to this government putting a tax on the printed word. They claim that the Government of Canada since Confederation and without hiatus applied a zero rate of tax to magazines, books, and newspapers, and now proposes to include them in the GST. They just abhor this.

At a time when we are trying to fight illiteracy in Canada, which is a very severe problem, it is just not comprehensible why a government would put tax on the printed word. They object strongly and ask the government to remove any GST on the printed word.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition this morning pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of a number of residents of several communities in the province of Ontario who point out that the government has decided for the first time in our history to tax literature. They say that uninhibited dissemination of the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy and for that reason ought not to be taxed and made more difficult for people to access. I agree with that, Mr. Speaker. They are asking the Parliament of Canada to do whatever it can to have the government back off from that decision. Mr. Speaker, again pursuant to Standing Order 36 I have another petition from the communities of Agassiz, Mission, Chase, Tumbler Ridge, 100 Mile House and Kamloops, British Columbia, Calgary, Alberta, Louis Creek, Knutsford, Savona, Cloverdale, and Princeton, British Columbia.