

I have another petition from residents of Mount Bruno, with another name from Noranda. There are a total of 20 petitioners from that area.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another petition from Huntingdon and St. Luc and Chambly, which is in part of my riding.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another petition from residents of Huntingdon and Valleyfield. Their names were submitted in early July.

(Names of signatories read)

● (1540)

Back to Huntingdon again. I would like to read these names out to you.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another page also from Huntingdon.

(Names of signatories read)

Back to Huntingdon again.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another petition from Waterloo, Huntingdon, and St. Jean.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another petition from Pickerel, Ontario and Huntingdon.

(Names of signatories read)

This is my last petition before I give way to someone else. These petitioners are also from Huntington, Waterloo, mostly from my area.

(Names of signatories read)

Those are my petitions for today.

Hon. Jeremiah S. Grafstein: Honourable senators, I have the privilege to present dozens of petitions on behalf of students from the largest university in Canada, one of the greatest universities in the English-speaking world, if not, indeed, the world, the University of Toronto. I am a graduate of that university, as, I am sure, are many other senators on both sides.

There are hundreds of petitions, all urging the Senate to oppose the goods and services tax, and specifically bringing to its attention the wide variety of items that previously were untaxed but which will now cost students 7 per cent more. These include student residence fees, transit fares, locker rentals and, of course, the most invidious tax of all, the sales tax on text books and periodicals which, for the first time in Canadian history, according to these petitions, undermine the importance of education and literacy nationwide.

● (1550)

The University of Toronto Students' Administrative Council dealt with this matter, and I am not sure what the outcome was. However, flowing from their deliberations, they decided to canvass individual students and they have presented us with hundreds of petitions signed by every class at the University of

Toronto from the class of 1990 through to the graduating class of 1997.

The students who have signed these petitions come from every college, every department of the university, from University College, Trinity College, St. Michael's College, Victoria College, and from all the faculties: medicine, law, engineering, nursing, commerce, pharmacy, and others.

When one examines the names, we see that these students represent the rainbow complexion of Toronto and Canada. The surnames come from practically every ethnic and racial origin. They also represent a wide selection of students from every region, not only of Ontario, but across Canada and from around the world. All of them have one message to give us, senators, as we approach the vote this afternoon on deleting from the proposed GST those portions of the tax which apply to education and to literacy.

I hope, honourable senators, that we take the voices of these thousands of students into account when we proceed to the vote later this afternoon. I was delighted last Thursday when I heard from senators opposite that they were anxious to get on with the debate dealing with the GST, and I noted that one senator, Senator Simard, suggested that senators opposite would consider amendments. It is my hope that you will follow the advice of the Prime Minister and listen to the substance of these petitions and vote favourably for the amendment which I think would not only hearten all of us on this side, but would also restore credibility in Parliament and the parliamentary process with the next generation of students who will bear the burden of trying to sort out the sordid economic mess which we of this generation have bequeathed them.

CLERK'S ACCOUNTS

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I move:

That the Clerk's Accounts be referred to the Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Motion agreed to.

THE HONOURABLE PHILIPPE DEANE GIGANTÈS

ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—REPLY BY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, before Your Honour calls for the oral Question Period, there is a brief statement I would like to make.

Last Thursday, in a statement to be found at page 3504 of the *Debates of the Senate*, the Honourable Senator Gigantès raised an objection to references made to him in the course of interviews I held with journalists earlier in the day. In particu-