

*Point of Order*

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from my adopted city of Windsor. It is properly certified.

The citizens of Windsor pray that the government will reconsider, reassess and rethink its position with respect to the imposition of the goods and services tax that it plans to put in place on the backs of the Canadian people on January 1, 1991.

These people pray that the government will reconsider its position and assess a different type of taxation rather than a consumer tax.

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a number of petitions against the goods and services tax from a number of different provinces and a number of different cities including Winnipeg and Selkirk, Manitoba, Comox, B.C. and many places in Alberta.

In the various petitions these citizens explain that they are concerned with the goods and services tax proposed by the Minister of Finance. They believe it is an unfair form of taxation because it lacks any regard for the taxpayers' ability to pay. They believe that the government has not addressed the unfair taxation system currently in place which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax while forcing lower or middle income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden.

Therefore, these Canadians humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject this tax and call upon the federal government to institute a regime of fair taxation.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from a number of residents of Ottawa West, primarily senior citizens, who are concerned about the impact of the new goods and services tax on their ability to enjoy their retirement years in reasonable comfort and financial independence. They pray that Parliament reject the proposed goods and services tax.

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. As the parliamentary secretary knows, before the Christmas break I asked if I was going to get an answer to my question with regard to moneys that the government has given to various corporations that have Senators as members. He at that time explained that it was a complicated issue. However, it has now been approximately four months since that question was given to the government. I would certainly like to know if we are going to get that information.

**Mr. Cooper:** Mr. Speaker, if I am correct I think the hon. member is referring to Question No. 169. Answers have been drafted to that question. It is just going through the final translation and approval stages.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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## POINT OF ORDER

## BUDGET STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I have a short point of order regarding the budget presentation for later today.

Mr. Speaker, I would request that you review the rules governing the presentation of the budget and consider whether those rules provide for a 10-minute question and comment period to follow the delivery of the budget in the House by the Minister of Finance.

I would like to bring to your attention a few brief previous rulings on questions and comments in the hopes that you will find that it was clear in terms of the intention of the House that such a question and comment period be held when the relevant Standing Orders were originally adopted.

Standing Order 84(7) governs time limits and comments on speeches during the budget debate. It says:

No Member, except the Minister of Finance, the Member speaking first on behalf of the Opposition, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, shall speak for more than twenty minutes at a time in the Budget Debate. Following the speech of