

GST; three petitions against taxing the printed word and two petitions against the GST and everything this dastardly tax stands for. All petitioners wish the bill withdrawn or axed.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Mount Royal, I would like to submit several petitions collected in Edmonton, asking the Government of Canada and Parliament to relieve books and the printed word from the proposed general sales tax.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the hon. parliamentary secretary.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that on more than one occasion I have heard members presenting petitions on behalf of the member for Mount Royal. If I am not mistaken, the member for Mount Royal is in the House and I am just curious about this procedure.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will recognize the hon. member for Mount Royal.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, I would bring to my colleague's attention that it is passing strange that no one on the other side of this House has heard from anybody. We have just heard from tens of thousands of Canadians who find it totally unacceptable that you are taxing learning, you are taxing reading.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I too rise under Standing Order 36 to present petitions on behalf of many Canadians from the Ottawa area and from Saskatchewan. They all deplore the negative impact of the GST on the cornerstones of democracy, culture, education, literacy, all foundations of a literate and productive society. All of these will be affected negatively by the imposition of the GST on the printed word, on textbooks and a variety of other printed matter.

The petitioners call on us to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in a tax free status for the printed word by retaining a zero rate under GST legislation and regulations, if not the withdrawal of the GST altogether.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition, primarily from residents of Mississauga pointing out that since Confederation, reading materials in this country have not been taxed and reminding Parliament that the uninhibited

dissemination of the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy, culture, education, and a literate and productive society, and calling upon Parliament not to impose the GST.

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I rise to present this petition to the House on behalf of people of Edmonton, Alberta, and Mississauga, Ontario, who detest this tax on literature. They request there be no GST on the printed word.

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, while millions of Canadians are protesting the GST which is currently going through the legislature, I humbly present this petition under the leadership of the member of Parliament for Mount Royal. She has seen fit to organize Canadians, quite easily I might add, to suggest to the government that the GST not be applied on the written word, namely, on magazines, books and newspapers, as this would slight the cultural attribute of this great country.

I submit, Your Honour, petitions from Richmond Hill, North York, Toronto, Scarborough, and Pickering.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have two sets of petitions. The first is a petition that was circulated in the riding of York North. These petitioners humbly pray that the government comes to its senses and does not proceed with the goods and services tax as planned.

The second set of petitions, Mr. Speaker, were placed in all Ottawa public libraries and were signed by those who should know that a productive and democratic culture is based on the printed word. The petitioners object strongly to the imposition of the GST on books. I will read the prayer, Mr. Speaker: "The undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations."

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I too have several petitions that are duly certified. They are signed by people from various communities all across Canada objecting to the 7 per cent GST on books. These people, like most Canadians, object to the regressiveness of this