

I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 10,053 residents of the province of Ontario, who object to the goods and services tax.

Most of these petitions are from Toronto, Guelph, Cornwall, Chesterville, Port Colborne, Windsor, Hamilton, Wawa, Mississauga, Thornhill, Bobcageon, Waterloo, Owen Sound and Scarborough.

● (0940)

[English]

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have a more modest contribution to the petitions still arriving, and I am glad to have the opportunity to present them on this anniversary to further prove that the opposition to this infamous tax is far from over in spite of what happened a year ago.

The petitions are in the form of previously tabled and presented petitions calling on senators and MPs, those that are the true representatives of the people, to do everything possible to abolish the new goods and services tax and demanding a general election immediately.

The petitions are from Ontario and Quebec. There are 5 petitions from Ontario with a total of 115 names, and 1 petition from Quebec with 19 names. The total is 6 petitions and 134 names.

QUESTION PERIOD

TRANSPORT

DRYDEN INQUIRY—EXPECTED RELEASE OF REPORT

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I wish to ask a question of the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate in the absence of the Leader of the Government.

In March of 1989, there was a disastrous air crash in Dryden, Ontario, and 24 passengers died. Subsequent to that, the government established commission of inquiry under Judge Moshansky. That commission has now been sitting for some two years, and it is dealing with a very important subject. I have raised the question previously in the Senate regarding Canadian safety standards for aircraft. It is important that we receive this report as quickly as possible because, from the indications at the time of the crash, we need to substantially improve Canadian safety standards, particularly with respect to winter flying. Could the deputy leader find out when we may expect this report?

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Enquiries will certainly be made and hopefully an answer will come to us next week.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

EFFECTS ON FRANCOPHONE PRESS IN CANADA

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, my question is for the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate.

The French-language press throughout the country is suffering greatly from the tax measures imposed in legislation introduced by this government.

Weeklies from Vancouver to Nova Scotia may no longer be viable, owing to Canada Post's excessive charges and methods and especially because of the impact of the GST on their rates.

Weekly newspapers like *Le Soleil* in British Columbia, *Le Petit-Courrier* in Nova Scotia and *Le Madawaska* in New Brunswick can barely keep their heads above the troubled waters of the recession, which as we know was made in Canada.

The French-language press outside Quebec is for all practical purposes one of the major modes of communication between these scattered French-speaking groups in the country.

Would the government agree to consider, examine and look into the impact of its policies on these French-language weeklies? I am speaking for my constituency.

I believe that it would be true to say that this impact is also felt in what is generally called the ethnic press, although that is not a term I like.

Would the government, in a spirit of national reconciliation and good will, agree to look into this issue and consider it? Otherwise, several French-language weeklies are done for. They can no longer absorb the costs.

Hon. John Lynch-Staunton (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the honourable senator will surely understand that I cannot give him an answer today, but I will certainly see to it that his statement and concerns are passed on to the appropriate authorities. I will see to it that he has an answer as soon as possible.

[English]

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

YUGOSLAVIA—OBSERVANCE OF U.N. PROTOCOLS

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault: Honourable senators, I have a question concerning the tragic events occurring in Croatia and the former country of Yugoslavia. The events there exceed all bounds of humanity, decency and intelligence. Not only is the loss of life tragic and unacceptable, but cultural genocide is being perpetrated.

Dubrovnik has been designated as a UNESCO world treasure. It is part of the common heritage of all mankind. How can one explain or understand the inability of the world to meet this disaster with a constructive and effective course of action? I am not attacking the government. I am appealing to the government to explain to us why it is not possible for us to raise at the United Nations with the Secretary General the issue of the destruction of these human and cultural values?