

hardly hold them—from residents of my constituency, all of which I want to draw to the particular attention of the Minister of Finance.

The petitions are signed by 1,763 residents of this area, including the communities of Beauval, Dorintosh, Goodsoil, Loon Lake, Makwa, Pierceland and Rapid View. Included in that number are 1,137 residents from the community of Meadow Lake alone.

The petitioners note that the report of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas fails to recognize the higher cost of living affecting residents in these northern designated areas and, therefore, call upon Parliament to reject the recommendations of the task force on northern benefits and call on the minister to develop a fair and equitable tax benefit program recognizing the financial needs of people in northern and isolated areas.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present a large number of petitions on two subjects this afternoon. First of all, I have 1,445 signatures of people from the Ottawa area, mostly from my riding of Ottawa South, objecting to the imposition of the goods and services tax as proposed by the minister at 9 per cent, and even at 7 per cent.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): In addition, I have a collection of petitions from residents of Canada from places as disparate as Regina, Yorkton, Moncton, Prince Albert, Creston, British Columbia, Kitchener, Kingston, Winnipeg and Windsor, all objecting to the pernicious clawback tax on family allowances and old age pensions.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present eight petitions containing 287 signatures of residents of the Similkameen Valley and the boundary area of the riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt. In addition, I wish to present a further 658 names from throughout British Columbia, from Edmonton and from Saskatchewan. These people are petitioning Parliament to reject the

Routine Proceedings

proposed goods and services tax and to bring in a tax fair and equitable tax Canadians.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege, under Standing Order 36, to present petitions from 54 residents of Elliston. The first signature is, I believe, that of the mayor of that town. The residents of Elliston are very, very concerned about the effect of the goods and services tax. They note that the government, in saying it is going to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, has raised it from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent in its time in power. They are also cognizant of the other hardships imposed upon them as a community and as Newfoundlanders as a result of other measures taken by this government.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to please reject this proposed goods and services tax at any percentage, nine or seven. They want it at zero.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I too rise pursuant to Standing order 36 to present a petition on behalf of a number of British Columbians. I wish I did not have to present this petition. I was hoping that the government would have announced before Christmas that it planned to abandon the goods and services tax. But, alas, it has not. So I must read the petition and hope for more sense in the new year.

The petitioners draw to the attention of the government a list of reasons why they believe the goods and services tax is a cruel and mean tax that discriminates against low-income families and against those people living in western Canada due to the tremendous cost of transportation. They are asking the government to reconsider proceeding with the goods and services tax.

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• (1640)

POINT OF ORDER

LOSS OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHEQUES

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise the fact that in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, a mailbag containing family allowance cheques was lost today. People are being asked to reapply for those cheques. I would like to ask the parliamentary secretary to the government House leader if he could look into the matter and see if there is something that can be done for those many families who