

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners are asking the government not to put the GST on magazines, books and newspapers.

I table these as the senators are trying to kill the GST with 16 and 18-hour marathon speeches. All the senators are doing is reflecting—

Mr. Speaker: I do have to remind the hon. member that he is to present his petition and not get into speeches.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table a petition along the lines of the many petitions that have been tabled with respect to the goods and services tax. Your petitioners strenuously object to taxing books. They maintain that the free distribution of printed matter constitutes the corner-stone of our democracy, culture and education. They claim that an educated and productive society will suffer as a result of this decision.

Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to recall the fundamental principles underlying the exemption of printed matter and ensure that the legislation and regulations contain an exemption for books. Like myself, these people maintain that taxing books means imposing ignorance.

• (1110)

[*English*]

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by a number of Canadians against the goods and services tax.

These people in their petition have called for Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax. They call for a reform of the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

The petitioners also ask that the House of Commons ensure that, if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure, that that be used to replace the manufacturers' sales tax and that this reform not be used as an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab. They believe that this would cause an undue burden on ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax and they call upon Parliament to have real tax reform.

I should point out that this petition is signed by a number of people from various parts of Ontario. Unfortunately, after the CBC cuts announced yesterday many of them will not realize that their petition was presented in the House of Commons, since they no longer have any local news coverage.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition in the House signed by numerous Canadians from the Ottawa area who are opposed to the goods and services tax insofar as it applies to the printed word and to books. They recite that uninhibited dissemination of the printed word is a corner-stone of democracy, culture, and education in our society and will be negatively affected by the goods and services tax.

These petitioners must rejoice in the valiant efforts of Liberal senators to save the country from this iniquitous tax.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition today that concerns a serious health issue as it relates to allergic reactions to foods.

The petitioners are joined by the Allergy Information Association. These petitioners are from Scarborough, Brampton, and Ajax.

For the protection of the citizens of Canada, they are calling on the Parliament of Canada to enact legislation amending the food and drugs regulations in order to require manufacturers to list specific food ingredients and additives used in pre-packaged food. As well, they require restaurateurs and food retailers to provide to customers a list of all ingredients and additives in prepared foods.

GASOLINE ADDITIVES

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I am rising again to present petitions signed by over 600 residents of southwestern Ontario who are among the thousands of petitioners asking the government to ban MMT, an automotive fuel additive which was banned in the United States 12 years ago.

The U.S. subcommittee on health and the environment found that the manganese component of MMT is capable of serious neuro-toxic effects. Studies have