

Routine Proceedings

Dryden, Murillo, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout, all in northwestern Ontario.

These petitioners point out that the proposed goods and services tax is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for taxpayers' ability to pay, 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 and middle income taxpayers to bear more of the national burden. They call upon Parliament to reject any such tax.

I want to add that I have been assisted in the collection of these petitions by the residents of Patterson Court, a municipal non-profit housing facility, and by one of the local bowling alleys, Galaxy Lanes which are very upset.

• (1220)

[Translation]

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present a petition on the goods and services tax to you. It contains 1,003 names. The petitioners say that the goods and services tax proposed by the Minister of Finance is an unfair form of taxation because it does not take account of taxpayers' ability to pay.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners demand that the government cancel its plan to implement a goods and services tax which would shift the whole tax burden onto ordinary Canadians by means of a regressive consumption tax and that it really go about reforming the present Canadian tax system.

[English]

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present three petitions on behalf of people from Welland, Minden, Vanier, Orleans, Ottawa, and Dunnville who decry the proposed implementation of the goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out that it is an extremely regressive and unfair form of taxation in that it hits the people who are least able to pay that kind of a tax. They also point out that the government has not addressed the

present tax system and enforced it in the way it ought to be, which would be a much fairer tax system than the government is proposing.

They also decry the fact that reading materials, haircuts and home heating fuels will be taxed. They ask that the government withdraw this unfair and iniquitous tax.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition to the House from over 2,000 people in Victoria where the flowers even bloom today ahead of the rest of the country. We are very proud of that.

This petition reflects the overwhelming feeling of the people of Victoria that the GST has to be rejected. It calls for a reform of the tax system to include the introduction of a wealth tax and a tax on polluters. It calls for a reorganization of government spending priorities in a way which ensures that our basic priorities in education, health, regional development and environmental protection are maintained, without imposing a tax on the majority of Canadians but by imposing in on those who have the full ability to pay.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 169 will be answered today.

[Text]

LAPOINTE, ROSENSTEIN AND BYERS, CASGRAIN-LOW,
MURCHISON

Question No. 169—**Mr. Murphy:**

Since May 31, 1986, has the government or any agency of the government made any payment to the firm of (a) Lapointe, Rosenstein (b) Byers, Casgrain-Low, Murchison and, if so (i) on what dates (ii) for what services?

Hon. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): See attached.

I am informed as follows:

a) Lapointe, Rosenstein	(i)	(ii)	
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation	February 10, 1988	Labour arbitration matters	\$ 1,379.25
Federal Business Development Bank	October 16, 1986	Corporate counsel/research/opinions	57,304.53
	November 6, 1986	Litigation account	10,783.68
	November 6, 1986	Litigation account	18,346.77