

*Routine Proceedings*

productive society can only be negatively affected by such a provision aimed at taxing reading.

The undersigned humbly pray that Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status of the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST to be implemented January 1st, 1991, so that this government does not go down in history as the government that taxed reading.

**Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to table a petition signed by a number of Canadians citizens who are against the imposition of the GST on books, newspapers and magazines. This measure is really a tax on reading.

[*English*]

These people ask Parliament to reject the GST on learning and reading and that it do so as soon as possible.

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have risen many times before, to present a petition from people of my riding concerned with the goods and services tax.

In this petition, they state that the Minister of Finance's proposed goods and services tax is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for a taxpayer's ability to pay. They also state 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 tax burden.

The petitioners call upon the government to reject the goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition signed by hundreds of Canadians from coast to coast with

regard to the goods and service tax, and most particularly with regard to the goods and services tax upon books.

The petitioners call upon Parliament, as do Canadians across the country, to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation.

If we are going to have this pernicious tax, at least let us make sure that books and newspapers remain free of it.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I also have the duty to table a petition.

Governments in Canada have seen fit over the years to apply a zero rate tax on magazines, books, and publications such as newspapers. This Tory government now proposes to include them in the general tax of the GST.

These petitioners pray that the government will see fit not to tax books, not to tax learning and 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 as they apply to books, newspapers and publications which are culturally oriented.

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today to present on behalf of numerous Canadians a petition which has been certified and which calls upon the government not to proceed with its pernicious and foolish goods and services tax which virtually all Canadians oppose.

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I have a series of petitions from people right across the country who complain and, indeed, criticize the government for the GST application to books.

The petitioners state that since Confederation, without hiatus, the practice of the government has been to apply a zero rate of tax to magazines, books and newspapers. The government now proposes to include it in the GST. The petitioners want the government 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.