

Routine Proceedings

The increased burden of taxation placed on the middle income people of this country is just so repressive and so domineering that they need some assistance, and they ask this House for its help.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, this is a duly certified petition that I am honoured to present to the House on behalf of individuals living in Hamilton, Toronto, Woodbridge, and other regions around metro Toronto who wish to express their strong and deeply felt opposition to the proposed general sales tax.

Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak):

[Editor's Note: Member spoke in Inuktitut.]

Mr. Anawak: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a certified presentation signed by residents of the community of Arviat in my constituency. These citizens of the Keewatin region of the Northwest Territories call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax which will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle income groups.

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of several hundred petitioners from Prince Edward Island to present three petitions pursuant to Standing Order 36, asking this Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax in the name of all Canadians.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a number of signed petitions which are against the goods and services tax. These are in addition to the 30,000 cards that I gave to the Minister of the Finance last week.

These people are from the communities of Brandon, Oxford House, Leaf Rapids, Deloraine, Ilford, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Pickertonei, Dauphin, Winnipeg, Lac Brochel, Moose Lake, Wekusko, Nelson House, Lac du Bonnet, Gillam, Cranberry Portage, The Pas, Bird, Wabowden, Flin Flon, Split Lake, Thompson, South Indian Lake, Tadoule Lake, Sundance, Pukawagan, Denare Beach, Saskatchewan, Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, Cross Lake, Easterville, Sheridon, Wanless, Waterhen, Bissett, Snow Lake, Creighton, Saskatchewan, Thornhill and Winkler.

Just to prove how unpopular it is there are also people from Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A. who reject the government's proposal.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the duty to table today 15 more petitions that object strongly to the government's proposal to impose on Canadians a new goods and services tax.

I have never been witness to such a display of discontent with a government proposal on the part of the people of my riding.

These petitions state that the Conservative government has imposed upon Canadian taxpayers at least 31 new taxes or tax increases since taking power in 1984. At the present the federal manufacturers' sales tax has already been increased by this same government from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent. The Conservative federal government wants to impose on Canadians a new general 9 per cent tax on goods and services, which will be hidden from Canadians and will be applied to virtually everything they buy.

The imposition of this new general goods and services tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to lower and middle income Canadians. The imposition of this tax will create an onerous burden on small business. This proposal will hit Canadians with higher taxes, higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax of the Tories.

[Translation]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty to present to the House ten petitions signed by residents of my riding of York West in Toronto.

[English]

As my colleagues from all parts of the House would confirm, these are petitions coming from average Canadians on real streets, living in real neighbourhoods, in all parts of the country including my riding of York West.

They are petitioning against yet another new tax. Since 1984, this is the thirtieth change or new imposed tax. The goods and services tax is definitely the most regressive tax hitting not only average Canadian families but also Canadian small businesses.

Mr. Speaker: I urge hon. members to present their petitions, and I think everybody understands the rules.