

*Routine Proceedings*

complete review of the present political system since it will then be clear it is impossible to agree on improvements to the existing system.

## TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am tabling today a petition from Chibougamau in the riding of Roberval, concerning the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas.

Your petitioners reject the conclusions of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas and ask that Chibougamau be recognized as an isolated area under the present tax benefits system.

• (1120)

[English]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, it is my honour and duty to present petitions from the Royal Canadian Legions of Tignish, Bloomfield, Eilerslie, Wellington, Miscouche and O'Leary which are upset that the veterans of Canada have fallen victim to the government budget cuts.

Royal Canadian Legionnaires believe that our veterans have already given service to this country and should not be targeted. They believe that these budget measures should be dropped.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I am honoured today to rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present some 200 petitions which I think you will agree are very important and somewhat unique. I hope they will be treated very seriously by this government.

They are petitions that were signed in the Chinatown community of Vancouver by thousands of citizens representing many business people, shoppers, and concerned citizens of Chinese origin, as well as others who characterize our multicultural Canada.

The petition is in Chinese and English. We regret that there was some procedural difficulty as a result of this. Many signatures are written in Chinese characters, evidence of how very strongly these people oppose and are worried about the GST.

The petition states that the undersigned residents of Canada avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right.

It goes on to state that the 7 per cent goods and services tax will hurt small businesses, costs will go up, incomes will go down, and it will be an accounting nightmare. The tax will also hurt consumers as prices of thousands of items and services go up.

Therefore the undersigned petitioners call on Parliament and the Government of Canada to withdraw the goods and services tax.

I present these petitions with great concern from Vancouver East.

**Mr. Joe Fontana (London East):** Mr. Speaker, it is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 36 to submit to this House petitions with over 1,000 names which are over and above the 25,000 names that have been submitted on behalf of the people of London, Ontario.

These people call upon this government to withdraw its grief and suffering tax and essentially restore a fair taxation system.

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of constituents in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are many hundreds of signatures on this petition.

These people are asking and begging this government to cancel the goods and services tax because it will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle income Canadians.

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by numerous Canadians from the London area of Ontario.

These petitioners are concerned about cuts to Canada's rail service. In their petition they indicate the importance of rail service for the tourist industry in Canada, as well as how important it is for rural communities in Canada. They also point out that it is the safest and most environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

They urge the government not to cancel in whole or in part rail passenger service in Canada.