

Routine Proceedings

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Benjamin: Madam Speaker, I have two other petitions in which, like hundreds of thousands of other Canadians, these Canadians from a number of locations in Ontario humbly pray that the government cease and desist from its proposal to implement a goods and services tax and they request Parliament to so instruct and call upon the government to no longer try to pass such legislation.

Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the minister from Lisgar—Marquette, signed by 42 petitioners who call upon Parliament to consider construction in skating and educational services and, therefore, exempt skating educational expenses from the proposed goods and services tax.

ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to introduce a petition entitled "Help Save the Rouge". Petitioners are calling on the Government of Canada to work with the Government of Ontario to establish the Rouge Valley, 10,000 acres of beautiful geography of Canada. It is a wilderness state. There is endangered wildlife there to be saved.

I was very pleased to hear the Deputy Prime Minister in Question Period today mention the Rouge Valley as a park and the commitment by the federal government of putting up \$10 million to save the Rouge Valley.

It is my pleasure to present to the House today the names of the petitioners who wish to support this very important endeavour.

LOW LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Madam Speaker, it is my honour and privilege under Standing Order 36 to introduce a petition from a number of residents of Toronto who urge the government to join with the Assembly of First Nations and the Innu of Labrador in halting all war training in that area, particularly the low level flight training, and to cease to ask for a NATO base there, but to use the money instead for a development both of Canada's First Nations and of all Canadians.

• (1210)

VIA RAIL

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of residents of London, Ontario, Denfield, Alberta, and Thorold, Ontario, urging the government to cease reducing and eliminating VIA Rail services, to modernize existing equipment and build a high-speed passenger train between Montreal and Windsor.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a petition which has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions on the subject of the grief and suffering tax being foisted on Canada by the present government.

The petitioners, some 140 of them from throughout the province of Ontario, with particular emphasis on the community of Hawkesbury, a number of lakehead communities and the Kitchener—Waterloo area, condemn the government for bringing in a proposal which will shift the tax burden onto ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax. They ask instead that the government, if it is seriously concerned with the deficit situation, conduct a vigorous and real system of progressive tax reform for all Canadians.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to present a petition duly authorized under Standing Order 36 from residents of Vancouver, Delta, Iroquois Falls, Maple Ridge, Abbotsford, to name a few, who point out that the goods and services tax which is being introduced is an extremely unfair one because it taxes people, not on their ability to pay, but rather on their consumption. They point out that the government has not addressed the unfairness in the present tax system in that it is not applying it the way it ought to be and the way it is intended. They decry the fact that reading, haircuts, coffins, diapers, home heating fuel will be taxed.

I could also point out a few things that will not be taxed, but I will not go into that.

They ask that Parliament reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and enforce the present tax system fairly.