

Routine Proceedings

Revenue when referring to those who act against the GST.

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present petitions on behalf of Canadians who object to the GST in general but take particular exception to the tax on reading embodied in that particular tax.

They note that since Confederation the government has always avoided charging a tax on books, magazines and newspapers, up until the proposed GST. They feel that the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word is the cornerstone of our democracy.

They petition Parliament to reaffirm these historical principles and to withdraw the tax on reading embodied in the GST.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to table a petition signed by a number of Canadian men and women. Your petitioners object to applying the Goods and Services Tax to books, newspapers and magazines, and they feel that this tax is extremely regressive. Your petitioners, and there are quite a few of them, maintain that free distribution of printed matter is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, our culture and our education. They also claim that an educated and productive society can only be undermined by a provision that would put a tax on books, textbooks and anything that can be used as such.

Today we want to congratulate the province of Quebec which has decided not to tax books, and we hope the federal government will do likewise.

[*English*]

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the number of citizens objecting to the tax to be imposed on magazines, books and newspapers is increasing at an exponential rate day by day.

In addition to what my colleagues have already done, I have the honour to submit a substantial list signed by citizens from metro Toronto.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour to submit petitions from Kitchener and from several sections of Toronto in opposition to the tax on books.

The petitioners oppose the increase in illiteracy and in the costs of persons who want to read, want to become educated, and want to become more productive members of society.

They are asking Parliament to restore the historical exemption of reading from taxes.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in presenting a petition against the GST.

I was approached a few days ago by representatives of the Canadian Student Federation. In view of the fact that these students are directly involved with the printed word, as this is how they get their education, they are adamantly opposed to the GST.

Once again, we put before the government to reconsider this ill-conceived and, I hope, ill-fated tax.

* * *

[*Translation*]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

* * *

[*English*]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers P-28, in the name of the hon. member for Saint-Laurant—Cartierville, is acceptable to the government, and the document is tabled immediately.

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of a feasibility study on establishing a new race relations network, prepared by Mr. Ralph Agard of Toronto for the Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship).

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.