

for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1991.

Bill read first time.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the second time?

On motion of Senator Lynch-Staunton, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading on Friday next, December 13, 1991.

[Translation]

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOTICE OF MOTION TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Hon. Paul David: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Thursday next, December 12, 1991, I will move:

That the membership list of the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be increased to include 15 members and that section 87(1)(m) of the Rules be suspended for the duration of this session.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I have some petitions to table. These petitions state and call upon us, the members of the Senate and of the other place, the true representatives of the people, to do our utmost to counter the new goods and services tax and ask for elections to be called immediately.

Today, these petitions are from New Brunswick. I have four of them signed by 81 citizens from Bas-Caraquet, Brantville, Maisonnnette, Pokemouche, Rivière-du-Portage, Shediac Bridge and Saint Sauveur.

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 2,397 residents of the province of Ontario who object to the goods and services tax. These petitions are mostly from Windsor, Cambridge, Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Terrace Bay.

Honourable senators, I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 4,364 residents of the province of Ontario who object to the goods and services tax. These petitions are mostly from Hamilton, Cornwall, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, North Bay, Toronto, Belleville, Owend Sound, Kingston, St. Catharines, Pickering, Mississauga, Midland, Rexdale, Downsview and Scarborough.

Do we have a page strong enough to come and get these 6,500 names?

• (1410)

Hon. Len Marchand: Honourable senators, I have some petitions here with a few hundred names on them. These petitions are signed by aboriginal people, largely Indian, from various parts of the country, who are in opposition to the GST. These petitions were passed on to me under the auspices of the

[The Hon. the Speaker.]

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians from London, Ontario.

The signatories to these petitions are from Southampton, Ontario; Fort Nelson, B.C.; Surrey, B.C., Nelson House, Manitoba; Winnipeg, Manitoba; London, Ontario and Muncey, Ontario. They are in the correct form as required by the Senate.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Jack Marshall: Honourable senators, I have the honour to table 202 petitions from veterans across the country in support of the report of the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, "It's Almost Too Late". The petitions are far-reaching, including some from Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. There are many from Ste. Anne's Hospital in Quebec, the only hospital remaining under the auspices of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Some of the signatories are patients there, many of them merchant seamen, who are wondering why they have to wait so long to be recognized.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MEET DURING SITTING OF SENATE

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz: Honourable senators, may I have leave to revert to Notices of Motions?

Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition): That depends on what you want to move.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Senator Frith: Would Senator Nurgitz explain why he wants leave?

Senator Nurgitz: Yes. I seek leave to present a motion for the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee to sit this afternoon at four o'clock. I take it if I had leave to do that at that time you would then ask for an explanation as to whether it should be given; if I could get to that point.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted?

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): You mean you will raise the matter again at four o'clock? I am prepared to give leave for to you present it, but I am not prepared to tell you I will agree.

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Motions:

Senator Nurgitz: Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 59(1)(a), I move:

THAT the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs have power to sit at 4 o'clock in the afternoon today, Wednesday, December 11, 1991, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that rule 96(4) be suspended in relation thereto.