

**Senator Frith:** — the Senate accordingly. The list of cities on the petitions are as follows: from Ontario, Kapuskasing; from Alberta, Edmonton, Falher, Girouxville, Grimshaw, Guy, Kinsella, Marie-Reine, Nampa, Peace River, Red Deer, St Isidore, Tangent, Valleyview, Viking; from Quebec, Amos, Barraute, Charlesbourg, Châteauguay, Drummondville, Fleurimont, Granby, St-Germain-de-Grantham, Highwater, Huntingdon, Jonquière, Katevale, Magog, Mansonville, Montreal, St-Bonaventure, St-Charles, St-Elie, St-Félix-de-Kingsey, St-Louis-de-France, St-Nicéphore, Ste-Brigitte, Val d'Or and Vassan; from New Brunswick, Haut-Sheila —

**Senator Thériault:** Hot Pork.

**Senator Frith:** How do you pronounce it?

**Senator Robichaud:** How do you spell it?

**Senator Frith:** H-a-u-t, Sheila.

**Senator Robichaud:** Haut-Sheila.

**Senator Frith:** That is what I said — Pont la France, Saumarez, Sheila and Tracadie.

**Senator Robichaud:** They are all in the same area.

**Senator Frith:** Are they? The numbers are as follows: From Quebec, 22 petitions with 431 names; Ontario one, with 20 names; New Brunswick, two with 40 names; Alberta, three with 70 names; in total 28 petitions with 561 names. I should say that some of these petitions are urging the Senate to persuade provincial governments to put pressure on the federal government for the object set out in the petitions.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jacques Hébert:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 280 citizens of the province of Quebec who oppose the goods and services tax.

These petitions come mainly from Dollard-des-Ormeaux, La Prairie, Cantley, Hull, St-Césaire, Rougemont, St-Paul, Ange-Gardien, Joliette, St-Ambroise, Ste-Brigitte, St-Samuel-de-Horton, Ste-Clothilde, Victoriaville, Daveluyville and Sherbrooke.

Honourable senators, I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 38 citizens of New Brunswick who oppose the goods and services tax. These petitions come mainly from Grande Anse and Inkerman Ferry.

This makes a total of 318 Canadians who are fed up with the GST and will remember when the time comes, which will be November at the latest, if the government dares to go to the constitutional limit of its term.

By the way, Senator Murray will surely be interested to know that I received this petition this very morning. It was signed as recently as March 8, 1993.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, can Senator Hébert tell us whether the signatories took a position on a tax on food as advocated by his leader, Mr. Chrétien?

**Senator Hébert:** Honourable senators, I think that it is generally a rejection of the GST as you designed it.

**Senator Frith:** Honourable senators, it is the tax as you designed it.

[English]

## QUESTION PERIOD

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

#### AID TO RUSSIA—STATUS OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION

**Hon. H. A. Olson:** Honourable senators, in relation to some of the statements that the Prime Minister has made recently, perhaps I might ask a question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate about Canada's actions in attempting to deal with the political turbulence that is taking place in Russia today. The Prime Minister has indicated that Canada is urging all the G-7 nations to embark on a significantly greater aid campaign for Russia and some of its neighbours that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, in view of the dissatisfaction and political turbulence taking place in Moscow now, and because of the subsequent risk and dangers to the rest of the world if this situation gets out of hand. Can the leader give us any information on this matter?

Perhaps the leader can also answer another part of my question at the same time, and that is as to whether or not Canada has fully resumed its shipments of grain to fulfil the long-term agreements that are in existence between Russia and Canada, some of which shipments were halted or delayed because the Russians had not fully met their payment commitments on some previous shipments of grain.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, to take the latter part of the question first, we stopped shipping grain when the Soviet Union fell seriously into arrears. That matter is now being reviewed by the government, and a decision on it would form part of an overall approach that we hope to take, in cooperation with other countries, to help the Russian federation through these difficult times.