

Routine Proceedings

was a colleague of John Graham at Oxfam Canada and I know the level of commitment, not just within Oxfam, but that the other non-governmental organizations have in this struggle. The non-governmental organizations understand only too well that development assistance is part of this struggle for independence. If we are going to have true development and not charity we have to fund those organizations very generously.

Non-governmental organizations have urged the government to do more in this regard, and I invite the Secretary of State to seriously consider these representations.

Today, however, we celebrate with our friends in Namibia and with the many Canadian organizations and individuals who have contributed to this historic event, including the non-governmental organizations, the RCMP and the Canadian military, many of whom live in my riding, who have been to Namibia and contributed to this historic event.

Namibia independence marks the final chapter of a decolonization process of over 40 years in Africa. The last colony in Africa—that has a wonderful ring to it. Today we celebrate Namibia for all of Africa.

In closing, it is with great excitement and enthusiasm that the New Democratic Party welcomes an independent Namibia into the international community.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS**PRESENTATION OF THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE CANADA-NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION**

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour as vice-chairman of the Canada-NATO Parliamentary Association to present to the House, in both official languages, the thirteenth report of the Canada-NATO Parliamentary Association.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**BILL C-40—REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Brian White (Dauphin—Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present in both official languages the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-40, an act respecting broadcasting and to amend certain acts in relation thereto and in relation to radio communication, with amendments.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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PETITIONS**VIA RAIL**

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents who oppose what the government has done regarding VIA Rail cuts. The petitioners hope that the government will reconsider its curtailment of VIA Rail service in various parts of Canada.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of constituents commenting on the government's goods and services tax. They feel it is a very unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for the taxpayers' ability to pay. They are asking the government to reconsider continuing with this particular tax.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I too rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a number of petitions, totalling some 1,500 signatures from petitioners across eastern, central and southern Ontario. They call upon the Parliament of Canada to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and call upon the Government of Canada to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

VIA RAIL

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 which relates to passenger rail service in Canada. Canadians are not giving up in