

It contains the signatures of over 150 Canadian seniors. They reside not only in my riding of Hamilton West but in Dundas, Burlington, St. Catharines, Stoney Creek, Brantford, Scarborough, Unionville, North York, Grimsby, and Fenwick, just to name a few.

They state that since 1952 Canadians made additional tax payments for the sole purpose of funding the old age security programs and not for the purposes of balancing federal and provincial government budgets.

They request that the federal government immediately affirm the right to all Canadians to receive universal access to benefits of old age security payments by cancelling plans to introduce a clawback tax regime on old age security payments.

[*Translation*]

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I trust the House will be with me, because I have several petitions signed by students from the University of Ottawa and elsewhere, in which your petitioners wish to inform the House of their views on overcrowded lecture halls, deteriorating laboratory equipment, a lack of library resources, the student-teacher ratio, elimination of certain courses, and deteriorating buildings and facilities. Mr. Speaker, this seems to be a situation that is typical of many postsecondary institutions in Canada.

These students would like the House of Commons to urge the Government of Canada to hold a top level federal-provincial conference that would establish financial responsibilities at both levels of government with respect to postsecondary education and put a stop to the shameful neglect of higher education in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I have about 20 petitions to table today, and I appreciate the attention of the House.

[*English*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I rose yesterday to read into the record petitions from hundreds and hundreds of petitioners who are very upset with the goods and services tax. They find it is regressive and oppressive. They are concerned that it is a hidden tax. They are concerned that they will not be able to

Routine Proceedings

meet their bills, and they are very concerned with the potential for higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

In my riding there are many poor people. What I want to say is that the members of the riding of Côte-St.-Luc, Hampstead, Snowdon, Côte des Neiges and the town of Mount Royal plead with this government to withdraw this really repressive tax.

[*Translation*]

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of tabling today a number of petitions submitted by the Canadian Students Federation, in which your petitioners ask the House of Commons to urge the Conservative Government to stop the erosion of quality and accessibility at universities, colleges and postsecondary institutions in this country.

Local students, including students from the University of Ottawa and also students from Montreal, signed this petition because they consider that the Government of Canada has a major responsibility in this area and that it must support and assist the efforts of the provincial governments.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, if you allow me, I have more petitions sent to me by my constituents, further to the one I presented a while ago, against the government's decision to impose a goods and services tax. These petitioners want to present their point of view to the House of Commons so that it will ask the Conservative government not to implement this goods and services tax which would be extremely hard and extremely tough on the poorest people in our society.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by several constituents of Windsor West who are opposed to the GST and ask the government to reject this tax.

[*English*]

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to present a petition signed by approximately 700 residents, primarily of Thunder Bay, Ontario, but also residents of Red Rock,