

Routine Proceedings

particular, that it applies to magazines, books and newspapers.

The petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to withdraw the goods and services tax. They further call upon the Government of Canada, that in view of the Canadian-made recession, it not proceed at this time with the goods and services tax which will have a very negative effect on the Canadian economy, especially Canadian consumers as well as small businesses all across this country.

GASOLINE ADDITIVES

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a series of petitions signed by almost 600 people from the constituency of Lambton—Middlesex asking this government to phase out the use of MMT in gasoline.

On December 1 this government officially phased out the use of lead as an octane enhancer in automotive fuels, but it still continues to allow methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl to be used, which is another neuro-toxic substance that has been banned in the United States since 1978.

These petitioners ask this government to act now, ban MMT and replace it with environmentally friendly ethanol. This would provide a market for millions of tonnes of Canadian grown grain.

Mr. Speaker, I also have petitions opposing the GST, opposing the closing of local post offices and petitions opposing cuts to our veterans services.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise under Standing Order 36 to present two petitions from residents of metropolitan Toronto.

They call upon the government to withdraw its plans to tax books and periodicals. The printed word is a cornerstone of our economic prosperity and our freedom of expression. These residents of Canada call upon the government to not tax these books and periodicals.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, my first petition on behalf of a number of residents of Kamloops, British Columbia, points out that the government's cutback on passenger rail service is not environmentally

sensible. They point out that the most environmentally friendly way of large passenger travel is by train.

They are asking the government to reconsider its decision to curtail certain routes and to invest more appropriately in the movement of Canadians via passenger rail.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from people in Kingston and Belleville.

They point out their concern at the government's decision to proceed with the goods and services tax. They feel that this is a regressive tax which permits benefits to certain Canadians in certain regions of the country. It is particularly punitive against northerners and people living in more remote areas of Canada. They are asking the government to reconsider their decision, back off, and introduce real, fair, tax reform instead.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present two petitions.

The first one is from small business people in my riding of New Westminster—Burnaby. They call on this government not to implement the goods and services tax. They say it is an unfair form of taxation because it forces small business people to carry a disproportionate share of the tax burden and that it will prove to be an implementation nightmare for their small businesses.

They also say that the tax does not address the concerns of small business with regard to the MST. Instead, it increases the tax burden for the small business community. They ask this government to reject the proposed goods and services tax, to consult with business, labour and with consumer groups to reach a broad consensus on tax reform.

ABORTION

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, the second petition is signed by petitioners in the provinces of Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia as well as the Vancouver area.

This petition says that the choice to bear children or not to bear children is a matter of personal choice and not one of criminal law. The Canadian Medical Association already has guidelines and regulations in place concerning abortion. They say that criminal sanctions do nothing to address the reasons why women seek abor-