

Routine Proceedings

ABORTION

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, I too have some petitions to present, which are duly authorized under Standing Order 36, from voters in Saskatoon who point out that the choice to bear children is a medical and personal matter and not a matter of criminal law.

They point out that the Canadian Medical Association already has sufficient guidelines concerning abortion. Criminal sanctions, they point out, have no reasonable effect on why women seek abortions and do nothing to reduce them.

They call upon the government to refrain from imposing any criminal sanctions against abortion.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 36 to present a petition, which includes the ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance common to the petitioners.

What is said next in this petition is very important: "in certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy".

This petition speaks on the question of the right of a woman to choice in the matter of abortion. It reiterates that it is a matter of personal choice and not of criminal law.

It also indicates that the Canadian Medical Association has guidelines. In fact it states that there is nothing in the criminalization of abortion that reduces the numbers of unwanted pregnancies.

This petition comes predominantly from Saskatchewan and Alberta, from communities such as Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Calgary.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I have the honour to present a petition signed by 251 people in my riding who would like the government to withdraw the goods and services tax.

They feel that it is inflationary, that it is on the back of the consumer, and that it will diminish our capacity to be competitive on the world market. They also feel that it will hurt tourism in Alberta.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions to the House today, both of which have been certified correct under Standing Order 36.

The first is a petition signed by residents primarily of Dawson Creek and Delta, British Columbia. They pray that Parliament refrain from imposing any criminal sanctions against abortions such as the legislation this House will be voting on later today.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, the second petition is signed by Canadians from all across the country on the route of *The Canadian*. It was the route of *The Canadian* since it is no longer there.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to legislate and bring in programs and measures so that we can have an effective VIA Rail passenger rail system in Canada.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty under Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of the people of Newfoundland who strongly oppose the goods and services tax which is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians. It will hit them not only with higher taxes but higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment than already exists in Newfoundland.

They humbly pray that Parliament reject the proposed goods and services tax.

[*Translation*]

MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mr. Gaby Larrivée (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to table in the House, pursuant to Standing Order 36, a petition signed by about 2,000 young Quebecers. The petition supports the Meech Lake Accord, the Accord that meets Quebec's five minimum conditions and recognizes Quebec as a distinct society and one of the founding peoples of Canada.

These young people ask the government to do everything in its power to ensure that the Accord is ratified and, in the event the Accord is defeated, to undertake a