

Routine Proceedings

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, I have a petition which is against the goods and services tax. It comes from the constituency of the member of Parliament who said this morning that all his constituents liked the GST.

It calls for the Minister of Finance to drop his goods and services tax as an unfair form of taxation, to review the entire taxation system so that we have before us in this country a system of taxation which is fair and equitable and does not fall so heavily on the ordinary people within this country.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East): Pursuant to Standing Order 36, the attached petition is certified correct as to form and content.

I have a large number of names from the area of Creston and Wynndel in my riding, that the Minister of Finance's proposed goods and services tax is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for taxpayers' ability to pay, that the government has not addressed the unfair taxation system currently in place which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax while forcing lower and middle-income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden and that the government is now trying to tax reading material, haircuts, diapers, coffins and home heating fuels. The petitioners therefore call upon the government to do away with this tax and bring about a more fair and equitable taxation system.

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Madam Speaker, I have a petition signed by 700 to 800 people from the communities of Pelican Narrows, La Ronge, Stanley Mission, Pinehouse Creek, Uranium City, Fond du Lac, Stoney Rapids and Denare Beach, which is most of the people in many of those communities.

They are also protesting the introduction of the GST, called the grab and steal tax. In those communities they already experience double and triple the cost of living of communities in southern Canada. They do not believe the finance minister when he says that when the big companies receive benefits through this tax that it is going to benefit them. They know they will be paying more and would sooner not pay the tax.

Therefore, they call on Parliament to withdraw this tax and to institute a system of fair taxation, especially one that is fair to northerners.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present to the House today a petition signed by a number of Canadians who are opposed to the goods and services tax. They regard this tax as vicious and unfair and call upon Parliament to reject the tax.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Madam Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition from the Caribou, British Columbia, and also towns in my riding such as Grand Forks and Christina Lake. I add these petitions and the signatures to the thousands I have already presented from my riding alone to the House.

These petitions indicate that the people of Canada and particularly in these areas will not be tricked by this government dropping the GST from 9 per cent to 7 per cent. These people are calling on Parliament to change the tax and to make the tax fairer for all Canadians.

BILL 178

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I would like to present a couple of petitions today, pursuant to Stand Order 36.

The first one addresses the frustration of some people in my riding, particularly in the Trenton area, to Bill 178 in the Province of Quebec. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the city of Trenton for this past week voting against an English-only policy in their community despite the frustration of people, as it is expressed in this petition, and the city's support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for its policy of tolerance, civility, amity and generosity throughout Canada with regard to official language rights.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): The second petition I would like to present is again from people in my riding who express their deep and grave concern regarding the proposed goods and services legislation this government is proposing. They ask that that legislation be withdrawn in its totality.