

Routine Proceedings

VARIABLE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I rise in accordance with Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of 56 of my constituents. They are from the Bay Roberts, Harbour Grace, Carbonear, Bristol's Hope, Perry's Cove area, and Salmon Cove.

They are concerned that they need 14 weeks instead of 10 weeks in order to qualify for unemployment insurance in Newfoundland.

They note also that the unemployment rate in Newfoundland is, if not the highest, among the highest in the country. They the undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament simply to introduce the variable entrance requirement without delay.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition to this House signed by numerous residents of Mississauga, Ontario, who object to the government's proposed goods and services tax in particular as it taxes books and the printed word.

• (1520)

They indicate to the House that the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy. Freedom of the press, of course, is one of the freedoms we enjoy under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms in this country.

Yet this government, in its contemptuous move, has elected to seek to impose a tax on the printed word that these petitioners object to. They call upon Parliament to reject such an iniquitous measure.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, like my colleague from Kingston and the Islands I have a petition containing numerous signatures from one end of Mississauga to the other.

These petitioners are highly indignant about the policy of the government to impose the goods and services tax on the printed word. They point out that through the history of our country taxes have never been imposed on books, that this is unprecedented, and that it is in violation of the fundamental understanding of Canadians of the importance of the printed word.

They call on the government to withdraw the tax in so far as it applies to books.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition on behalf of many Canadians from various parts of Toronto and surroundings, including Mississauga South and Mississauga West which are currently held by members who are unwilling to present such petitions. They are also from Thornhill, Newmarket, North York, Downsview, Toronto, Scarborough, and so on.

They humbly petition this Parliament to implore the government to withdraw from its decision to impose a GST on books and printed matter, on matters of democracy, culture and education, and all matters pertaining to the development of a literate and productive society. These matters will be affected negatively by the GST because of the government's decision to move away from a zero rate of tax on magazines, books, newspapers, et cetera.

HERITAGE LANGUAGE FOUNDATION

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet, I would like to make reference to another petition that did not conform to Standing Order 36.

Similar citizens refer to the decision on the part of the government to withdraw funds from the Heritage Languages Foundation. This decision also impacts negatively on their ability to promote democracy, culture, and education in a literate society among a very specific group of individuals in Toronto and in Canada.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 36 to present three petitions signed by many concerned Canadians who are opposed to the GST being charged on magazines, books, and newspapers.

They call upon Parliament to reverse this decision. These Canadians are saying: "Don't tax reading".

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and duty, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present to this House a petition, which has been certified correct by the clerk of petitions.

It contains the signatures of not only individuals in my riding of Hamilton West but many of them in the riding of Burlington. There are others from Guelph, Fallingbrook, and Appleford.