

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for his intervention. That has been a clear and concise explanation of why this is being asked. We have a situation at this point where the government has completely and utterly acceded to the request of the New Democratic Party.

The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier has the floor.

Mr. Gauthier: In talking to the procedural aspect of this question, I could give the House a brief explanation as to how to proceed with private bills and how members file petitions. I could read document after document into the record as to the difficulty with the standing order and other information that I have. I hesitate to do so because I think the Speaker would show his impatience with me.

My only comment is that, indeed, we are upset and believe that the government should have presented a global comprehensive approach to transportation before going ahead with the VIA Rail cuts, and the savaging of railroad transportation services. But we would certainly give unanimous approval that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present a petition obtained by my friend, the Hon. Member for London East, on behalf of many of the people living in his riding, who oppose the goods and services tax being imposed on Canadians by this arrogant government. The petitioners humbly pray for Parliament to reject this outrageous tax.

VIA RAIL

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to present these petitions from the undersigned residents of Canada who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance to this House. This grievance

has to do with the VIA Rail service. They humbly ask this House to maintain and upgrade the service across Canada and offer the Canadian people an alternative to highway congestion and airport delays.

These petitions have been certified by the Clerk of Petitions.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present to this House two petitions. One is from my own riding of Cochrane—Superior, and the other is from the riding of London East. The petitioners are demanding that the Government of Canada rescind the goods and services tax as it is a step backwards and does not address the crucial issue of fiscal reform in Canada.

[*Translation*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present a number of petitions dealing with the Conservative government's proposal to impose a goods and services tax on Canadians as of January 1, 1991.

[*English*]

The people who signed these petitions are from my riding and the surrounding area. They would like to make it clear to this government that they totally disagree with the application, and soundly oppose this new 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 with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment.

• (1120)

Therefore, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present on behalf of hundreds of people from the ridings of London East, London West and London—Middlesex, including people from the St. Thomas area, a petition calling on this government to rescind its action on this cold, callous, and irresponsible, new goods and