

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition certified pursuant to Standing Order 36 from 175 British Columbians expressing fear that the government was going to cut VIA Rail by one-third and perhaps more so now that the government has announced it is cutting it by 51 per cent.

We, the undersigned, call on Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger service to all Canadians.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from residents from Ontario and British Columbia who say that VIA Rail service is essential for many Canadians and has been a part of Canada for more than 100 years. They call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger service.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by over 150 people from the lower mainland in British Columbia. Most of these people are from the municipality of Burnaby and the City of New Westminster which is in my riding. They are very concerned about the cut-backs to VIA Rail service. They ask the government to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade the equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger service from coast to coast in Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to this House today a petition signed by constituents in my riding who are adamantly opposed to the tax on music lessons.

VIETNAM

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by members of the Vietnamese community in my riding and throughout the region who are calling on the government to pressure the Vietnamese government to properly deal with the constituents in that particular area.

[*Translation*]

NAC ORCHESTRA

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present to the House a petition signed by residents in my riding. Your petitioners humbly pray that the National Arts Centre Orchestra be maintained, and their petition reads as follows:

That assurances be given, first of all, that the National Arts Centre will maintain the present number of musicians and the same level of excellence in its orchestra, and that a sound cultural background will be the main consideration when appointing new members to the NAC's board of directors

• (1520)

[*English*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by constituents of mine relating to the sales tax proposal. These people are very upset at the government's proposal to slap a 9 per cent tax on goods and services. They maintain that this tax will not only be hidden and inequitable, but the petition reads that Liberals on behalf of Canadians strongly oppose this goods and services tax which is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians and will hit them not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment. For those causes these people would like to see this tax rejected by this House.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to be able to present pursuant to Standing Order 36 a petition signed by a number of Canadians from Ottawa, Montreal, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, my own riding of Surrey, British Columbia, Port Coquitlam. They all petition that the government maintain the VIA Rail service as it is a vital service connecting Canada.

RCMP DRESS CODE

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present many petitions. In fact, I have hundreds of petitions containing 68,582 names of people from Calgary in particular, and from all across Canada, who want to retain the uniformity of the RCMP dress uniform.