

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 20, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government response to nine petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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• (1110)

[*Translation*]

REVIEW OF THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA ACT

PRESENTATION OF FIFTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of State (Youth), Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the fifth report of the Special Committee on the Review of the Parliament of Canada Act concerning Bill C-79, and the bill is presented with amendments.

[*English*]

I would also like to thank the researchers and the lawyers who have done an excellent job for the committee and, in particular, the clerks of the committee, Mr. Birch and especially Mr. Kirby who has been with us now for many months and doing excellent work.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the chair of that committee. It was a difficult committee. There were some challenging moments. However, because of the excellent leadership provided by the chair, we are able now to file this report and hopefully deal with it expeditiously.

I simply want to say that I appreciate the efforts the chairman made during those difficult moments.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, if you requested unanimous consent to jump from motions to the presenting of petitions, I think members on both sides of the House would concur with moving to petitions at this time and then reverting to motions?

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I will now call Petitions. The hon. member for Kamloops.

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[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today. One is on behalf of a number of people from the province of British Columbia who point out that with the goods and services tax it will mean that Canada is one of the very few countries of the world that will levy taxes on literature, reading material, religious tracts, children's story books, and the like. In a world where we are attempting to use every means at our disposal to reduce the high levels of illiteracy, it seems to me and certainly to the petitioners that this is a very regressive step.

I wish to present a petition on another matter, although it is related, on behalf of a number of petitioners from Kamloops, British Columbia. They indicate their opposition to the goods and services tax and that a recent referendum in the city of Vancouver pointed out that 80