

Routine Proceedings

efforts to rectify a disastrous situation for them as the petition itself says—

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member knows better. Does he want to conclude?

Mr. Milliken: As I was saying, Madam Speaker, the petition urges Parliament to reject the cuts to the unemployment insurance program, and the petitioners are obviously supporting the Senate's amendments to Bill C-21.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to rise and present a petition signed by hundreds of residents of British Columbia and, in particular, residents of my constituency of Burnaby—Kingsway, who continue to express their anger at the government's proposal to push ahead with the proposed goods and services tax.

They point out 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.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to cause the government to cease with a proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform. Obviously, in calling upon Parliament, they are calling upon the Senate to kill the goods and services tax.

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by hundreds of Canadians in the riding of Hamilton Mountain. This petition is against the goods and services tax.

The petitioners strongly oppose the goods and services tax and feel it is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians that will hit them not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present three different petitions. The first one is a petition in Chinese and

English. It is from many persons from the Chinatown area of Vancouver East, both store owners and some of their customers.

The petition states that the 7 per cent goods and services tax will hurt small businesses; costs will go up, incomes will go down and it will be an accounting nightmare. The tax will hurt consumers as the prices of thousands of items and services go up.

Therefore, the undersigned petitioners call upon Parliament and the Government of Canada to withdraw the goods and services tax.

Madam Speaker, I have a second petition which is much longer, and I will summarize.

The petitioners ask that Parliament reject, and this includes the other place, the current proposal for a goods and services tax, reform the tax system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, and ensure that if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure, that this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab and causes the government to cease with—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thought the hon. member said she would summarize the petition.

Ms. Mitchell: Madam Speaker, that was only half of it. The final petition that I have is on a different subject.

FISHERIES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, the final petition calls on the government to use every means possible to stop the use of pelagic driftnets in the north Pacific Ocean, including the institution of economic sanctions against the offending countries and the placing of prohibitive tariffs and duties on imports to Canada from those countries. There are quite a number of people, again from Vancouver East and the Vancouver district, who have signed this petition.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Madam Speaker, I have two petitions dealing with the goods and services tax, each in a different form but each have been approved under Standing Order 36.

One calls on the government to abandon the goods and services tax and to review the manufacturers' sales tax and ensure that there is real tax reform of the tax