

(Names of signatories read)

● (1510)

I have several more names from Elmvale and Wasaga Beach, where some people live all year round.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 29 more names from the lake country, Orillia and Barrie.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 27 more names from Severn Bridge. Anyone who is interested in boating through the canals will know of that town.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 27 more names from that same area.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 27 more names from the Orillia and lake area, which is a beautiful section of Ontario.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 28 more names from the Orillia area. In fact, out of these 28 names, 20 are Orillia addresses.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another 27 names, a number from the Orillia area.

(Names of signatories read)

I have 24 names on my next petition. Again they appear to be from the Orillia area.

(Names of signatories read)

I have another ten names from the Orillia area.

(Names of signatories read)

I could take you through a number more. As I say, they all seem to be from my area. There are incredible numbers from Orillia, Bracebridge, Wasaga Beach and Barrie, all asking that we listen to what they have to say. There are more names from Beaverton and Britannia. These are from the small towns and villages surrounding the Toronto area, half-way to the north country. As I said, we had names from the far northwest, including Kenora. There are names from Brighton and Tweed. When I was sitting here looking through everything, if my addition is correct, I counted 2,479 names on these petitions; but, I found a couple of American names and at least one Englishman on the petitions, so perhaps 2,470 would be a more correct number.

ROYAL ASSENT

NOTICE

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that the following communication had been received:

RIDEAU HALL
OTTAWA
K1A 0A1

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

6 November 1990

Mr. Speaker,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Charles Gonthier, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 6th day of November, 1990, at 5:15 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to a Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Judith A. LaRocque
Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate
Ottawa

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS ON BILL C-62

Hon. George van Roggen: Honourable senators, I have petitions from British Columbia, which I would like to table this afternoon before the vote on the amendment presently before the Senate is taken, because they relate to the GST. The first petition I have is dated September 25, 1990. It has 25 signatures on it. It is in the usual form, whereby the petitioners, all residents of Canada, avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to them in the certain assurance that this honourable house will provide a remedy.

● (1520)

I understand that under the rules I should not read the subject matter of the petition, but I will paraphrase it by saying that specifically it has to do with the tax applied against the printed word.

The majority of the petitioners on this petition come from the greater Vancouver area, but there is one from Kelowna, one from Richmond, one from Victoria and one from Robert's Creek on the Sunshine Coast, which is not too far away. I would ask that this petition be tabled.

The next petition I have is also signed by people in the greater Vancouver area. It is in a similar form and again deals with the same subject matter; namely, the application of the GST to magazines, books, newspapers, periodicals and other reading materials. I think it is significant, honourable senators—and I address these remarks particularly to those senators on the government side—that, much as they might have criticized and decried our reading of petitions over the last few weeks, it is significant that the impact of the petitions eventually does penetrate even this government. The outpouring of the feelings of hundreds of thousands of Canadians through the mechanism of these petitions on the particular subject of, for example, the application of a tax to printed material, has even penetrated to the level of the Prime Minister.

It was in Vancouver a week or so ago that I saw Mr. Mulroney on television, where, in answer to a question posed