

Routine Proceedings

CHILD CARE

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present to the House with your indulgence today.

The first one is signed by 31 members of the child care faculty of the University of Victoria. It is signed out of concern for the federal government's lack of initiatives in child care. These are professionals who are very concerned and aware of the vacuum in Canadian policy. On this day that the budget is to be presented, I present this petition signed by professionals in the field who know very well the kind of harm that comes from having that vacuum in Canadian policy.

FISHERIES

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): The second petition I would like to present is signed by 75 of my constituents, particularly from the Gulf Islands, Salt Spring Island. It relates to the whole problem of driftnet fishing. The petitioners ask that all possible means be used to stop the use of driftnets in the north Pacific, 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.

INCOME TAX

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the third petition I have is signed, once again, by my constituents and talks about the relation of the tax system to Canadian women who file tax returns. Fifty per cent of Canadian women have incomes of \$10,000 per year or less, compared to only 23 per cent of men.

Whereas thousands of Canadian women living in poverty pay income taxes the petitioners ask that the government introduce a tax system that is simpler and fairer to average Canadians and which establishes a better balance between corporate and personal taxes. They ask that the government restore indexation to the child tax credit.

Once again, on the day the budget is going to be coming down, this is a very important message to the government.

VIA RAIL

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the next petitions I have relate to VIA Rail. They

contain 250 signatures of people from my constituency who talk about the lack of federal resources to VIA Rail and the importance of a passenger rail system to Canada. They say that the government should be working to upgrade VIA Rail equipment and give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, the next petition I have is signed by over 300 of my constituents and relates to the goods and services tax. The petitioners ask that the government cease this proposal that will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through this regressive, consumptive tax instead of real tax reform.

EL SALVADOR

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Finally, Mr. Speaker, this petition has upward of 250 signatures of my constituents and talks about the situation in El Salvador. As we heard in the news yesterday, the Government of El Salvador is once again bombing civilian targets in the city of San Salvador.

These petitioners ask that the Government of Canada utilize the full potential of Canada's position at the United Nations and as a member of the OAS, to pursue an independent diplomatic policy leading to the full protection of human rights and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in El Salvador.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, there are many petitions against the goods and services tax and I am pleased to have the honour to add another one from the Kamloops constituency.

With these petitioners' signatures there are a total 17,257 from the Kamloops area alone. Today's petition is signed by representatives of the Kamloops and District Teachers Association and the Caribou College Faculty Association, as well as the communities of Westwold, Dallas, Valleyview, Monte Lake, Pritchard, Barnhart Vale, Turtle Valley, Highland Valley, Deadman's Creek and Monte Creek.

They have a long list of grievances with reference to the goods and services proposal and are asking that the Parliament of Canada do whatever it can to stop the tax from becoming a reality.