

Routine Proceedings

• (1120)

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition signed by residents of my constituency of Mission—Coquitlam, and residents of Mission, Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, and other areas of the province who, even though the goods and services tax has passed this House, know it is not too late and are calling upon the government to see the light and withdraw this negative tax. In fact, they are petitioning that the government do that.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): In addition, Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from residents of Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, and Mission who are seriously concerned about Canada's war veterans and their right to a secure and dignified retirement.

The petitioners are calling on the government to maintain the current level of services provided to veterans through the Veterans Independence Program and to ensure that there is no increase in charges to veterans for board and lodging in institutions for long-term care. It is my privilege to table this petition on their behalf.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Well, the beat goes on, Mr. Speaker, and I have the duty and honour today to table a petition signed by 881 wise and far-sighted Edmontonians, some of whom, by the way, Mr. Speaker, reside in your riding, and all of whom are calling upon Parliament—Parliament, mind, Mr. Speaker—to reject the goods and services tax.

It is a simply message, one I commend to the government, and one I most strongly commend to the Liberal majority in the Senate which has it within its their power to kill the goods and services tax.

FOREIGN OVERFISHING

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Burin—St. George's.

Mr. Simmons: I think the excitement is because the NDP have found a reason to embrace the Senate all of a sudden.

I have much pleasure in presenting a petition on behalf of many Canadians, largely in the Toronto, Hamilton, Mississauga, Downsview, and Burlington areas of Ontario, almost all of whom were born in Newfoundland and have since moved away, as they make clear in the petition.

The prayer of that petition is that the government would get after the foreigners who are raping our fish stocks. The prayer of the petition specifically is that the petitioners call upon Parliament to stop and correct the international economic injustice that the people of Atlantic Canada are forced to endure.

I have two petitions here which reflect that prayer. I have a number of others with similar wording which say the same thing. The petitions are signed by literally thousands of people in the southern Ontario area. I call upon the government to heed the prayer of those petitions and to do something to stop the overfishing while there is still time.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Mr. Speaker, the fight does go on.

It is my pleasure to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition sent in from my riding, fresh off the press, against the goods and services tax. The petitioners have not given up hope that the government will rescind and back off from the goods and services tax and look at a tax system that is fairer to all Canadians.

I add my voice to those voices of the people in Penticton, Cawston, Keremeos, Princeton, and all throughout my riding and other points of British Columbia, who are massively and madly against this tax.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to table a petition in the House signed by hundreds of people who are protesting the fact that reading materials will be taxed under the GST.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon the Parliament of Canada to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status for the printed word by