

Government Orders

measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and responsibility under Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by many residents of Mission, British Columbia.

These Canadians from Mission, British Columbia, point out that the proposed goods and services tax is a regressive tax and that it lacks and does not show regard for taxpayers' ability to pay, and that in fact the government is now trying to tax reading, haircuts, diapers, coffins and home heating fuels.

The petitioners therefore call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to stand up pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present this petition from people in the lower mainland of British Columbia who are opposed to the government's intention to introduce a goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out that the present tax system has not been fully utilized in taxing those who are well able to pay—the wealthier and the corporations within our society. While the present tax is regressive enough they point out that the goods and services tax is going to be even more regressive and are asking the government to reconsider its intention to introduce it.

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour and privilege to present petitions properly certified and signed by the proper number of people from my adopted city of Windsor who petition the House, through their signatures, to do away with the goods and services tax.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition duly certified in accordance with Standing Order 36. It is signed by a number of residents of the city of Windsor.

The petitioners are opposed, as indicated in this petition, to the unfair and vicious goods and services tax that has been proposed by this heartless government. They call upon Parliament to reject the tax.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition, pursuant to Standing

Order 36, from a number of people from Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Burnaby, Pitt Meadows and Port Moody, British Columbia, who are pointing out that while 60,000 profitable corporations pay no income tax it seems unfair that people now will be required to pay tax on their reading, diapers, haircuts, home heating fuels and the like.

The petitioners are asking the government to back off from its decision to proceed with the national sales tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): On a different matter, Mr. Speaker, I present a petition on behalf of a number of western Canadians who point out the fact that passenger rail service is an environmentally sound way to transport Canadians. They ask the Government of Canada once again to back off from its decision to curtail VIA Rail service throughout most of Canada.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all the questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall all the questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

EXCISE TAX ACT AND EXCISE ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-20, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee.

Mr. Speaker: It is now my duty to make a ruling with respect to a number of amendments that were filed late Friday afternoon.

[*Translation*]

There are eighteen (18) motions in amendment set down on the *Notice Paper* for the report stage of Bill