

Routine Proceedings

ernment to recognize the need to preserve the site and historic character of the Parliament Buildings and Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, your petitioners also ask that members of Parliament continue to park outside in the spaces behind the Parliament Buildings, like factory workers do in this country, and they maintain that the Government of Canada has more important priorities than building an underground shopping mall on Parliament Hill.

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I join with many colleagues on this side of the House to condemn the putting in place of the goods and services tax.

I have the pleasure to present a petition signed by Canadians from across Ontario and, more specifically, from my riding of Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold.

This ignoble bill is possibly going to be read into effect before the end of this year, but we as Canadians will be paying the price for it for many years to come. Once again we ask the government to reconsider and to kill this bill.

NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of rising in the House to present a petition on behalf of residents of Tahsis, British Columbia.

Virtually every resident of Tahsis has signed this petition, urging the government to reinstate the northern and isolated area tax benefits. Tahsis is a single industry community which is in desperate economic shape.

If the government were to provide the northern and isolated area tax benefits, it would be of immeasurable help.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the obligation or the duty this morning to table five petitions dealing with the government's intention of imposing a tax on all goods and services purchased by Canadians.

The people who have signed this petition claim that the government has increased the existing federal manufacturers' sales tax from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent over the last six years, that it will now impose a 7 per cent tax on all goods and services which will be hidden, that the imposition of this goods and services tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle income Canadians, and that the imposition of this tax will create an onerous burden on small business.

I could go on, but I will just say that these people ask Parliament, plead with Parliament, pray that we do not proceed with this very bad tax.

The British had its poll tax, and we know what happened to Madam Thatcher. This government has its GST tax, and we know what is happening to this government.

NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition in which the undersigned residents of my riding of Cochrane—Superior, more specifically citizens from the town of Manitouwadge, respectively requesting the federal government to reject the task force report on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas.

If the report were adopted by this government, it would be another blow to the residents of Cochrane—Superior. The loss of \$5 million in revenue to northerners would seriously impair the efforts of the people to improve the quality of life in their remote areas.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, like my colleague, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, I have the honour and the privilege to submit seven petitions today pursuant to Standing Order 36, wherein the petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to withdraw the goods and services tax.

In their petition they make specific reference to the goods and services tax which is planned to be implemented with regard to books, particularly those petitioners in the province of Ontario as well as those elsewhere across this country.

Like the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, I remind members of the House that Britain had the poll tax and we know what happened to Madam Thatcher. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that if this GST goes through the same will occur in Canada as occurred in Britain.