

Routine Proceedings

with this bill in the face of all kinds of objections from Canadians.

The petitioners who have signed this petition are objecting to the government proceeding with the goods and services tax. Admittedly their objections are based on the desire to stop the tax on books and magazines which they oppose. It is the first time in Canadian history that we have had a tax imposed on books and magazines, and they are objecting to it.

However, had they been here to watch the proceedings in the Senate, they would have been outraged at the approach of the Conservative majority in that place.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have a petition to table in the House today. This petition supports many others I have tabled previously, to the effect that taxing books means promoting ignorance and that the government is making a mistake when it proposes to tax publications. Your petitioners maintain that newspapers, books and magazines should be completely exempt from this tax. After all, we are in a democratic society.

Your petitioners, dozens of whom state here that free distribution of printed matter is one of the cornerstones of our democracy, culture and education, claim that an educated and productive society will suffer as a result of a tax that would restrict reading in this country, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think this petition speaks for itself and that we should act on its recommendations.

[English]

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have a large number of petitions to present today from constituents of Blue River, Vavenby, Birch Island, Clearwater, Black Pool, Little Fort, Darfield, Lewis Creek, Barriere, Chu Chua, Heffley Creek, Knouff Lake, Aspen Grove, Red Lake, Pass Lake, Pinantan Lake and Pritchard, British Columbia.

All these petitioners, and there are hundreds of them, point out a whole set of concerns for the government's decision to proceed with the cruel and punitive goods and services tax. They point out how it is going to cost average families hundreds of dollars in additional taxes every year, coming at a time when the policies of the

government have also driven us into a recession. They simply ask the government to come to its senses and stop proceeding with this GST.

I have another petition to present, mainly from constituents of Kamloops. They point out that the government is now going to place a tax on books, including religious books, so that when people buy bibles, religious pamphlets or religious story books for their children they will have to pay an extra government tax on this literature.

They just cannot believe that this is proper, appropriate, decent or sensible. They ask the government to stop taxing reading material.

LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and indeed honour to present two petitions under Standing Order 36. The first one is signed by people from many parts of Canada, including Winnipeg, Manitoba; Waterloo, Ontario; Dundas, Ontario; Greenwald, Manitoba; Parkside, Saskatchewan; and many other communities in Canada.

These people are calling for an end to low-level flight training over aboriginal lands, certainly until at least the aboriginal claims have been dealt with.

These people recognize that the proposed training centre is not going ahead. Nevertheless the flights continue.

I think the petitioners would like me to point out that the Innu walk to Ottawa is culminating this weekend with a rally on Parliament Hill at two o'clock on Saturday.

• (1130)

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition under Standing Order 36. It is signed by several persons living in the London, Ontario area and it calls upon the government to get rid of the goods and services tax.

The petitioners ask the government to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective, minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations. They also ask that if and when there is broad public consensus on a sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab.