

*Routine Proceedings*

dispensed from reading the report, which consists of a list of members of the Special Committee.

[English]

## BILL C-74—REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-74, an act to amend the Fisheries Act and to amend the Criminal Code in consequence thereof, with amendments.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[Translation]

## STRIKING—CONCURRENCE IN FIFTY-SIXTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West)** moved that the Fifty-Sixth Report of the Striking Committee, presented earlier today, be concurred in.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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[English]

## JAPAN

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INSTITUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I have a motion concerning the 100th anniversary of the institution of parliamentary democracy in Japan.

I move:

That the Speaker of the House of Commons convey to the Speaker of the Japanese House of Representatives and the Speaker of the Japanese House of Counsellors, the good wishes of the House of Commons of Canada on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the institution of parliamentary democracy in Japan.

Motion agreed to.

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## PETITIONS

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, signed by several dozen Canadians, calling on

the government to remove the goods and services tax as it applies to the printed word on such things as magazines, books, newspapers and other printed matter.

The petitioners point out that the dissemination of the printed word is the cornerstone of our democracy, culture, education and a literate and productive society. This literate and productive society would be negatively affected by the application of the GST.

I would hope, now that the Prime Minister has indicated some concern about the imposition of this tax, the government would withdraw it as it applies to all matters, especially to books, newspapers, magazines and other printed word.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by 49 Canadians.

These Canadians note that since Confederation, a zero rate of tax has been applied on magazines, books and newspapers. Now with the goods and services tax, there will be a tax on this. In fact, the petitioners consider it a tax on reading.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax free status of the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present two petitions. The first one deals with the clean-up of the Seine River. A large number of my constituents call upon the three levels of government to sort out the various responsibilities for the clean-up of rivers, and more specifically in this instance the Seine River, a once beautiful and non-polluted river. Of course, this is applicable to other Canadian rivers as well.

The petitioners really want governments to sort out what it is that they have to do, stop talking and start acting.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** My second petition deals with the concern of a number of my constituents, and other Canadians as well, with the goods and services tax on reading materials. They note that there has never been a tax on reading and learning materials. They are concerned that while the government talks about competitiveness, participation and