

and Air Force Club in Bras d'Or. There are approximately 150 signatures on this petition.

In part it states that the Government of Canada has introduced changes that will reduce homekeeping services to veterans and substantially increase the cost of long-term care. Whereas the veterans have already given service to this country and should not be targeted by those measures, the petitioners call upon Parliament to reject those budget measures which deprive veterans of proper services and increase their financial hardships.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs has made some movement away from this very draconian position, but he has not gone far enough. The petitioners believe this is grossly unfair to the country.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The hon. member was getting into debate and not reading a petition.

[*Translation*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to table a petition today on behalf of many Canadian voters who are opposed to the goods and services tax. In spite of the government's explanations, these people find this tax unfair, unacceptable and especially bad for seniors.

[*English*]

VETERANS' BENEFITS

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present petitions from Legionnaires, both men and women, in my riding in the areas of Kemptville, Brockville, Gananoque, Prescott, Cardinal, Spencerville, Lyndhurst, Westport and other communities, all objecting to the cuts the government has proposed to veteran's services, particularly to housekeeping costs for veterans and additional charges for long-term care.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina—Lumsden): Madam Speaker, I have a petition regarding the cut-backs in veterans' benefits. There are some 1,042 names on three petitions from Cloverdale, White Rock, Surrey and other places and Legion branches in the Fraser Valley. I also have two petitions from the city of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, which includes the signature of the hon. member

Routine Proceedings

for that riding. In addition I have almost 1,000 signatures from people in the city of Ottawa and district.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to maintain the current level of services provided to veterans through Veterans' Independence Programs and to ensure that there is no increase in charges to veterans for board and lodging in institutions of long-term care.

Madam Speaker, the one thing you do not do is cut back on veterans.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, I want to table a petition today pursuant to Standing Order 36. This petition follows closely a vote by this government when it refused to recognize the importance of unemployment insurance to eastern Canadians and, in particular, turns down the variable entrance requirements that were proposed in that bill. We regret the position of the government. These people petition the House of Commons and Parliament that whereas the unemployment insurance system is vital to the well-being of Canadians in providing temporary income protection to unemployed Canadian workers; whereas the Government of Canada is proposing to drastically cut unemployment insurance benefits by making it more difficult to qualify and reducing the number of weeks covered; whereas the Government of Canada is withdrawing its contribution of \$2.9 billion to the unemployment insurance fund and leaving the financing to workers and employers, these people reject these cuts to the unemployment insurance system and propose more meaningful reforms that should concentrate on labour force development strategy combined with a full employment policy and effective regional development policies.

• (1600)

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, like my colleague, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier, I am pleased to present a petition signed by numerous residents of Newfoundland who oppose the government's proposals to cut the Unemployment Insurance Act. The unemployment insurance scheme was adopted by past Liberal governments and, I may say, Madam Speaker, I am sure these petitioners would be horrified to witness the vote we have just been through in which this heartless government rejected the Senate's