

Routine Proceedings

is bad for average Canadians in my riding, it is bad for average small business enterprises in my riding, and it is bad for Canada.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to Parliament, on behalf of the people of the Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold riding and the surrounding area in the Niagara Peninsula, a petition signed by some 8,000 people. This is a petition which was started by Mrs. Idris O'Neill, and it is the remainder of the 12,000-plus names that she has collected.

The signators oppose the goods and services tax completely. Notwithstanding the fact that this government has seen fit to back off from its 9 per cent position to its 7 per cent position, this is still going to impose an extremely difficult hardship on the old people in our communities, our students and also average Canadians in the middle-income group. We would hope that the government would listen to reason and indeed withdraw any proposed goods and services tax.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, as I did yesterday, I would like today to rise under Standing Order 36, especially in light of the presence today in this building of the One Voice Committee, to present the signatures of another 419 Albertans, bringing the total now to well over 11,000, Albertans who petition Parliament to withdraw the budget proposal to claw back payments from the social programs, Old Age Security and family allowances.

Yesterday, the signatures came from Albertans mostly from Edmonton, but today they come from Edmonton, St. Albert and Sherwood Park too. But as well, there are signatures of people from Jarvie, Fawcett, Flatbush, Barrhead, Gunn, Dapp, Rochester, and lots of them from Westlock.

• (1530)

They also come from Busby, Vimy, Clyde, Warrensville, Pickardville, Calahoo, Slave Lake, Mayerthorpe, Legal, Newbrook, Thorhild, Edson, Swan Hills, Bloomsbury, known for its wools, McLennan, Bon Accord, Faust and Sturgeon.

MULTICULTURALISM

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today to table a petition

signed by members of the Kingston community which urges the government to acknowledge officially the injustices suffered by Canadians of Ukrainian origin during World War I.

Between 1914 and 1920 over 5,000 Canadians from Ukraine were interned in prison camps across Canada. Their property and valuables were taken from them. They were denied the right to vote and their lives were altered forever.

In tabling this petition, I am not asking the government to apologize for those decisions taken over 70 years ago. I am asking, rather, that the terrible injustice committed and the hardship and pain which these people were forced to endure at the hands of their own government should be acknowledged and should never be forgotten.

This is the first of many petitions that will be filed in Parliament on this subject.

I say in presenting this petition that I am particularly honoured to do this because one of the principal internment camps was at Fort Henry in the riding of Kingston and the Islands. I am honoured to present this petition on behalf of the people who suffered so much at the hands of their government so long ago.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege and the responsibility to table a petition signed by over 1,200 residents of the Nickel Belt area.

They are from such places as Azilda, Val Caron, Hanmer, Garson, Chelmsford, Verner, Copper Cliff, Timmins, Worthington, London, St. Charles, White Fish, Kenora, Keewatin, Wanapetei, Sudbury, Coniston, Lively, Onaping Falls, Falconbridge, Val Therese, Sturgeon Falls, North Bay, Naughton, Hagar, Dowling, Alban, Sault Ste. Marie and Sundridge. Most of those communities are within the riding of Nickel Belt.

The people who have signed these petitions are pointing out, first, that the proposed goods and services tax of the Minister of Finance is an unfair form of taxation because it does not respect the ability of consumers to pay.

Second, they point out that the government has not addressed itself to looking at the tax system, to ensuring that it is progressive and fair in that many wealthy individuals and corporations pay little or no tax at all