

Routine Proceedings

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETITIONS

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition with some 100 names. This petition, however, represents petitions with some 25,000 names from all parts of Canada collected by the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation. Once these other petitions are certified, they will also be tabled.

The petition I am presenting today, like these other petitions, calls upon the government to abandon its clawback of the old age pension and the family allowance and I hope the government will listen to this plea of tens of thousands of Canadians.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here from many people throughout the Ottawa valley who protest the removal of the train travelling from Montreal through Ottawa to Arnprior, Pembroke, Petawawa, Chalk River, North Bay and on through to western Canada because this train has been proven to be widely used. In some cases passengers have been put in the bar car because there were no seats left, and the Prime Minister said use it or lose it. These people are saying that the service is being used and that it should be kept on and they want this passenger service to continue. They are very upset and they also feel that when VIA Rail is phoned for reservations it is not giving the truth to the Canadian public. VIA Rail is saying that the train is overbooked and it is turning down bookings, then it turns around and says the service is not being used. As a result, the train is being taken off as of January 15. I strongly protest on the petitioners behalf the removal of this train and I strongly protest the kind of information that VIA Rail is giving out to potential customers—

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member has made his point.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under Standing Order 36 to present petitions on behalf of a number of people, well over 200,

from the lower mainland of British Columbia, New Westminster, Burnaby and Surrey.

These petitioners are upset about the cuts in VIA passenger rail service and they say that passenger rail service is essential for many Canadians and has been a part of Canada for well over 100 years.

They feel that these cuts will result in serious reductions in the passenger rail service and threaten maintenance, safety and jobs. They are asking this Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, to upgrade the VIA equipment and to guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its real mandate to provide passenger service for Canadians on trains.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of the constituents in my riding of Lambton—Middlesex, particularly constituents in the Park Hill and Nelson Craig area, who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the goods and services tax.

I also have two more petitions from people from other parts of Ontario that I wish to table at the same time.

POLLUTION

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured once again to rise in the House pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of several hundred Chippewa and Patawanamee natives of the First Nation and other residents of Kent who are agonizing over the government's blatant disregard for their rights. I call upon Parliament to fulfil its responsibilities to hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans living along Lake St. Clair and stop the dredging off Seaway Island and dumping the potentially hazardous sediment into the open waters of Lake St. Clair pending the findings of a full and public environmental hearing.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise today as I have many times before with a petition given to me by a number of farmers from the province of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the removal of oats from the Canadian Wheat Board by this government. They feel that there was not prior consultation with the Canadian Wheat Board Advisory Committee or major farm organizations in western Canada. They feel that farm marketing boards are essential to the orderly marketing of farm products in this country and