

*Routine Proceedings*

Manitouwadge is situated 75 kilometres north of Highway 17, over 350 kilometres from the town of Thunder Bay. Along with Hornepayne, it is the most isolated community in my riding below the 51st parallel. On average, food and gasoline prices are 25 per cent higher than any heavily populated area. This tax benefit is the only compensation that they have. It should not be taken away.

On behalf of the 402 petitioners who rely on this tax benefit, I must reiterate the importance of this deduction to northern communities. The government is presently studying the report and it is imperative that it reject the recommendation presented in this report.

[*Translation*]

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by students at the University of Ottawa in my riding who, as debate on Bill C-69 begins today, want to express their disagreement with the proposal to reduce federal transfer payments for education and to urge the government to stop eroding the quality and accessibility of our universities, colleges and post-secondary educational institutions in Canada.

These students say that tuition fees and other costs, which are already high, will continue to increase because the federal government will no longer contribute its fair share to the financing of post-secondary education.

For these reasons, the students ask the government to hold a federal-provincial conference at the highest level to establish the financial responsibilities of both levels of government for post-secondary education and to end the shameful neglect of higher education in Canada.

[*English*]

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour this morning to rise to present two different sets of petitions on the goods and services tax, one from a group of citizens from the great province of Saskatchewan and another petition from the great community of Kamloops, British Columbia.

Both groups are pointing out their concerns for the government's goods and services tax and by and large make a case that this is probably one of the most unfair

forms of taxation in that it takes in no consideration as to the taxpayers' ability to pay a national sales tax, and they ask that the Parliament of Canada reconsider its earlier decision and rescind the legislation.

## CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition on another topic. A number of citizens from British Columbia point out that since one-sixth of all of Canada's children live in poverty and the numbers in many respects appear to be increasing, they ask members of Parliament to support the private member's motion No. M-254, calling upon the government to negotiate with the provinces to provide a comprehensive bill of rights for children.

This is very topical because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, that vote comes up later today asking members of the House of Commons to support a comprehensive bill of rights for children. I assume that that will be done unanimously. I cannot imagine members of Parliament saying that they do not want a bill of rights for children. However, there are surprises in this institution and we will see later today if there are any. I hope not.

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today with over 1,000 signatures of people, not only from my constituency of Mission-Coquitlam but from across the country, who have written and signed this petition in support of the children's bill of rights which is coming before the House today under Private Members' Business for a vote.

These people point out that although the over-all child population fell by almost 4 per cent between 1980 and 1986, the number of children living in poverty has increased by 13.4 per cent. The petitioners are calling upon the government and urging the government to support this bill which is supporting the United Nations bill and are calling on the government and the opposition to support it.

**Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a number of petitions with many hundreds of signatures from people around the country who are also supporting the private member's motion No. M-254 which we will vote on later today.

They too are concerned with the rising incidence of child poverty which shows that one-sixth of all children in this country live in poverty and the rate is rising. It is a national disgrace. The petitioners also feel that it would