

Supply

Islands. Your petitioners are opposed to the goods and services tax and humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject a tax that is unjust and unfair.

[*English*]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present four more petitions in a lengthy series of earlier petitions on the subject of VIA Rail. The petitions are signed by many citizens of the community of Revelstoke, and also a number from Nakusp, British Columbia.

My friend, the member for York South—Weston presented a petition on the same subject a few moments ago, and he referred to his father. Revelstoke was the community he came to to work on the CPR a number of years ago.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail, Canada's present national network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service. These petitions come from a community that is at least three hours drive from the closest commercial airport and its roads are cut off by snow and avalanches more than any other community in Canada.

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ORDER PAPER QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 150 will be answered today.

[*Text*]

CANADIAN RESIDENTS—PAYMENT OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Question No. 150—**Mr. Wappel:**

As of October 1, 1989, what number of Canadian residents (a) pay federal income tax (b) have paid federal income tax for twenty-five years or more?

Hon. Otto John Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): (a) Statistics on taxfilers are maintained by taxation year, the most recent year available being 1987. For the 1987 taxation year 13,026,180 Canadian residents paid federal income tax.

(b) No statistics are maintained on the number of Canadian residents who have paid federal income tax for twenty-five years or more.

[*English*]

Mr. Cooper: I ask that all remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S. O. 81—VIA RAIL

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Tobin:

That this House approve the recommendation contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, calling for a moratorium in the Government's proposed cuts to VIA Rail.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Before the Minister contributes to the debate, there have been some discussions among the parties that following the speech by the Minister of Transport and the hon. member for Regina—Lumsden, there is agreement that although we will observe the normal rotation between parties, each party will use its time as it sees fit.

It is my understanding that the government will probably use the normal 20 minutes, plus a 10 minute question and answer period, and that the two opposition parties will split that time ten minutes—five minutes in their case. I would ask for unanimous consent to allow that to occur.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), on the same point of order.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, in order to assist the Chair during the proceedings, I think Hon. Members should advise the Chair of their intentions before they start to speak. I hereby give notice that I will use ten minutes plus five minutes for questions and comments, so the Chair will not have to guess whether the 10 minutes are up or not. If it is 12, 13, or 14 minutes, it might be a