

*Routine Proceedings***ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS***[English]***PETITIONS****GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to table a petition, certified correct as to form and content, from members and friends of Branch 126 of the Royal Canadian Legion in Westmount, Nova Scotia.

There are many signatures on this petition, and in part it states that the Government of Canada has introduced changes that will reduce home keeping services to veterans and substantially increase the costs 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 hardship.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition signed by numerous residents also largely members of a legion branch in Kingston, and in fact is signed by some in Napanee, Ontario, who are objecting to the cuts the government has proposed to the veterans services, particularly to the housekeeping costs for veterans and the additional charges for veterans in long-term care.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the budget measures that impose these cuts and ask the government to reinstate them at the earliest possible date.

I am pleased to table this petition on their behalf.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand before you and present these petitions, pursuant to Standing Order 36, on behalf of the constituents of Kenora—Rainy River.

Today I have 33 petitions, totalling 3,314 signatures of people in my riding, that again call on the government to change its mind and reassess the reasons for putting this particular legislation in place as it relates to the goods and services tax, knowing full well that it will put our country into a major recession and cause severe inflation that these Canadians know very well we cannot afford.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of constituents from Simcoe, Rainy River, and St. Thomas, Ontario, I would like to present a petition in opposition to the goods and services tax.

It points out that it is a tremendously unfair tax on the basis that it is regressive in that it is taxing people who are least able to afford this kind of tax. It asks the government to change the tax system, for sure, but to bring in one that is equitable, progressive and taxes people according to their ability to pay.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Question answered orally is indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 304 will be answered today.

*[Text]***CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADA COUNCIL**

Question No. 304—**Mr. Harvard:**

Does Mr. Allan Gotlieb receive a salary for his services as Chairman of the Canada Council and, if so (a) in what amount per year (b) is it a full-time or a part-time salary?

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Please refer to reply to Question No. 214 answered March 23, 1990.