

S. O. 31

VIAL RAIL

REDUCTION OF SERVICES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Finance announced the five-year \$1.2 billion cut to the operating budget of VIA Rail, Canadians have strenuously expressed their opposition to any reduction of VIA Rail services.

To date, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Transport have received, been made aware of, or will shortly receive over 300,000 cards, letters, and signatures on petitions of Canadians who support VIA Rail. These are just the ones we know about.

My colleague, the member for Sault Ste. Marie, and I have also received notice from over 300 municipalities that have passed motions supporting VIA Rail. Many of these motions have been passed unanimously, showing the depth of support Canadians have for VIA Rail.

In light of this massive outpouring of support for VIA Rail, I call on the Minister of Transport to recommend to cabinet that support for VIA Rail not be cut and, in fact, assistance to VIA Rail be raised to a level suitable to bring VIA Rail into the 21st century.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

SALUTE TO *NEWSWORLD*

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, the new fall season on television has produced one genuine surprise for Canadians. CBC's all-news channel, *Newsworld*, has been up and running, occasionally stumbling, since July 31, but one can only marvel at how professionally a staff of 190 people has mounted an ongoing newscast from Newfoundland and Labrador to the west coast and, next month, Yellowknife.

Despite technical growing pains, *Newsworld* is providing national programming done by the regions, from the regions, and that is certainly a change from the southern Ontario based networks.

The viewer is electronically whisked across several time zones for live coverage of inquiries into the Mount Cashel Orphanage in Newfoundland, the Dryden air crash in Thunder Bay, Ontario, to the tragic J. J. Harper slaying in Winnipeg, to the Pattie Starr scandal in

Toronto, and, of course, to this place, Mr. Speaker. It is happening now, it is exciting, and it is addictive.

Newsworld is showing Canada to Canadians, and as a former private broadcaster I am proud to salute the CBC for this truly national service.

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FINANCE

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, about a month ago some 100 small business people in the city of Windsor, Ontario, got together and of their own accord paid for a full-page ad in the *Windsor Star* opposing the Conservative government's goods and services tax. The ad had coupons in it which people could send to the government in the form of petitions. These coupons read: "Mr. Wilson, we the undersigned are strongly opposed to your new 9 per cent goods and services tax. Stop Wilson's added tax. Where will the taxes end?"

I received, to deliver to Mr. Wilson, in the course of only three or four days, some 2,400 coupons, as did my colleague, the member for Windsor—St. Clair. Unfortunately they are not in a form that could be tabled in the House as petitions. However, I ask the government to treat them as such petitions and to respond to them favourably. I will be delivering them to the Minister of Finance and I ask the Minister of Finance and the Government to listen to these voices of the Canadian people, listen to these voices of Windsor and Canada, and withdraw this tax before it does irreparable damage to this country.

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ABORTION

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, in the riding of Elk Island, and indeed across this country, Canadians have expressed a view that Canada must have a law that restricts abortion. It is our obligation as members in this parliament to take a common sense approach in dealing with the abortion question.

In order to pass in this House of Commons a successful abortion law must include two fundamental elements: Number one, a genuine concern for the health of