

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour, under Standing Order 36, to present a petition on the goods and services tax.

These petitioners, primarily from communities in the province of Nova Scotia, are petitioning the House to call on the government to reject the goods and services tax. I know that they will start petitioning the Senate as well, given that the Liberals in the Senate have already given second reading to the goods and services tax.

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a number of petitions against the government's regressive and Draconian goods and services tax measure.

Previously, I have submitted almost 15,000 signatures of residents in my riding opposed to the tax measure. These signatures, however, come from residents throughout Canada, virtually from Victoria to St. John's. There are about 13 petitions here with approximately 500 additional names for the government to consider in terms of Canadians who are opposed to this very regressive tax measure.

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present a number of petitions, some in both official languages, calling upon the government to abandon its idea of the GST.

The petitioners point out that this is an unfair tax that will hurt the average Canadian and they call upon the government to abandon it.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, I also have the honour of representing the sensible views of citizens of Windsor who have affixed their names to several petitions in the total number of 300. These 300 signatures constitute only a small part of the some 25,000 or 30,000 people in the Windsor—Essex County area who have voiced their protest about the introduction of the GST.

Routine Proceedings

Since they ask for Parliament to defeat the GST, it is therefore at this stage a specific request of the Liberals in the Senate to do their job and defeat the GST.

AIR-INDIA FLIGHT 182 CRASH

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, five years ago this month, 329 innocent civilians, mostly Canadians, lost their lives as the result of a terrorist bomb explosion aboard Air India flight 182 from Montreal to London.

I have the honour today of presenting a petition which has been signed by over 400 British Columbia residents, including Mrs. Perviz Madon whose husband, Sam Madon, was killed in that crash.

The petitioners point out that extensive media research, prominently broadcast on television and radio, has shown that this crime was preventable, that there were many warnings, including a test explosion, and that Canadians have been clamouring for a public enquiry to ascertain the facts related to this disaster and to come up with recommendations that would prevent similar disasters.

Therefore, they call upon Parliament to give Canadians a commitment to hold a royal commission of inquiry into all facts surrounding the Air India disaster of 1985. We must ensure that justice is done in this case.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition which has been signed by hundreds of residents of a number of communities of British Columbia, including my own constituency of Burnaby—Kingsway. It is also signed by residents of a number of other parts of Canada, including St. John's East and other communities, who want to voice their anger and their outrage at the imposition of the federal Conservative goods and services tax.

They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to ensure that there is real tax reform. They urge Parliament to cause the government to stop this proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.

Presumably, in this call to Parliament, they are calling upon the Liberals in the Senate to do their job and defeat this heinous tax.