

wondering about democracy in this country, when 80 per cent of the population is against such tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): I also have one belated petition that I am very happy to present, although it is too late. VIA Rail has already been gutted. They are adding insult to injury by trying to sell the excess cars back to Canadians taxpayers who will have to pay for them again.

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and privilege to table hundreds of petitions containing thousands of signatures signed by seniors across Canada.

They protest the cutback in the old age security system engendered by the government's introduction of the clawback provision to the Income Tax Act. These senior citizens, the thousands and thousands who have signed these petitions from all across our country, are outraged that the government has chosen to tax away their pension rights to which they have contributed over the years.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the inequitable and unfair tax burden being placed on them to the exclusion of all other citizens as contained in the clawback provision to the Income Tax Act introduced by this mean-spirited government.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present petitions from hundreds of taxpayers across this country who are calling upon this government to reject the goods and services tax. They want reform of the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and on big corporations. They want to ensure that there is a broad public consensus of the sales tax measure to replace the MST, not to use this so-called reform as an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab on its citizens.

They call on this government to reject the goods and services tax.

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 217 and 218.

[Text]

OSLO ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PANEL

Question No. 217—Mr. Caccia:

Is it the intention of the government (a) to include in the terms of reference of the OSLO Environmental Review Panel the impact of production from the OSLO oilsands on Canada's carbon dioxide balance (b) to withdraw its funding and support for the OSLO oilsands project if the Review Panel determines that such project would increase carbon dioxide pollution in Canada, using 1988 as a base year (c) to provide funding for intervenors in the Public Review and, if so (i) what amount (ii) in what manner will it be allocated?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): (a) The terms of the agreement with Alberta governing a joint federal/provincial review of this project have not yet been finalized but the intent is to permit the panel to examine all environmental impacts of the project.

(b) The federal government has announced its decision not to provide funding for this project other than for engineering studies.

(c) No.

COSTS INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT FOR TRAVEL TO/IN EL SALVADOR

Question No. 218—Mr. Blaikie:

In (a) the month of December, 1989 (b) the entire calendar year 1989, were any costs incurred by the government for (i) transportation (ii) accommodation (iii) meals and other expenses for government officials present in El Salvador and, if so, in total, what were they?

The Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The cost *(including transportation, accommodation, meals and other expenses) incurred by government officials present in El Salvador were:

a) \$6,444.63 in December 1989

b) \$54,352.55 in 1989

* Itemized costs not readily available

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The questions as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered.