

families and to people who want to read. For instance, the Prime Minister's spouse yesterday talked about the importance of reading—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order.

#### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of a number of farmers from Saskatchewan.

With thousands of bushels in the field and this government failing to move grain in the world markets, thousands and thousands of farmers are going into bankruptcy. These farmers are concerned about the future of orderly marketing in this country.

The petitioners are concerned that the government is continuing to oversee the dismantling of the Canadian Wheat Board. They call upon this government to return oats to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board to give oats and barley the same protection that wheat now enjoys. That would ensure that changes could only be made by Parliament itself, in order to give farmers in Saskatchewan and across this country protection.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I will continue to rise until there is not a gasp of hope left, I suppose, in terms of presenting petitions against the goods and services tax.

Today I rise to present petitions from Kamloops, Port Hope and Oshawa as well as Toronto, from individuals who are opposed to the goods and services tax. They point out a long list of reasons, all accurate and precise, why this is a fundamentally bad tax. It is coming at the worst time ever as we are into a recession. They are asking that the government reconsider their determined effort to proceed with the tax.

Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from all parts of Canada against the government's decision to tax literature and reading material. They cannot understand how the government feels that taxing a children's story book is going to be good for that child or good for the country.

They ask the government to consider not taxing reading material.

[Translation]

#### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

• (1210)

[English]

#### CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

##### MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Wednesday, October 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. de Cotret that Bill C-78, an act to establish a federal environmental assessment process, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Taylor, (p. 14644).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I wish to inform the House that, because of the ministerial statements, Government Orders will be extended 31 minutes. The hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls.

**Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls):** Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons is debating today a bill concerning the environment. That is an admirable thing to be doing. It certainly is good to read what the Government of Canada claims it is trying to do with this new environment bill.

In the bill, there is a preamble which reads:

—the Government of Canada seeks to achieve an appropriate balance between economic development and the preservation and enhancement of environmental quality;—

Today, in the *Statutes of Canada*, we have a Clean Air Act, an Environmental Protection Act for the land, and a clean water act, through the Fisheries Act. So one would think, on the face of it, that we would not need any more acts of Parliament.