

Routine Proceedings

[English]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition collected in my riding of York West by Mr. and Mrs. Manzo. They have gone around to various neighbourhoods in York West and have filed a petition solidly in support of the opposition's request that the goods and services tax be withdrawn from this House of Commons.

The petitioners in fact quote that there have been some 31 new taxes or tax increases since 1984 and that this tax will only build on that regressivity and make life very difficult, particularly for working middle class families in the riding.

I also have two further petitions that in essence are asking for the very same objective, namely, to withdraw this goods and services tax. It is signed by petitioners living in the great city of Windsor.

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to present three petitions on behalf of many Canadians who ask that Parliament do reject the proposed goods and services tax.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition duly certified by the clerk. It is signed by Canadians who are very concerned about the tax represented by the government's goods and services tax. They are concerned about a number of promises that have been broken and, in particular, they are terribly concerned about where this tax is going to go. It is starting at 9 per cent and we are not really sure where it will end.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to table a petition that has been signed by 26 residents of the community of Atikokan, certified correct as to form and content by the clerk of petitions.

These petitioners are from a community that lost its passenger rail service over 10 years ago. They are expressing their concern about the closure of the rest of

the system throughout northwestern Ontario in particular.

The undersigned call upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail, Canada's present national network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger services.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I too have the privilege and honour to present a petition relating to the government's goods and services tax. It has been certified correct as to form and content by the clerk.

• (1140)

In their petition this group of Canadians points out that this government in the past five years has increased taxes not less than 31 times and that the GST would prove to be an unfair hardship on low and middle income Canadians.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services and tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I am honoured to present a petition on behalf of a number of Canadians who are calling upon the government to reconsider its decision to curtail VIA services in certain parts of Canada and to dismantle it in others.

The petitioners are asking Parliament to maintain, improve and modernize VIA Rail in those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economical, safe, convenient, environmentally sound and energy efficient alternative to other means of transportation.

TAXATION REFORM

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 and certified correct by the clerk, I have a petition signed by 31 people from Maple Ridge in my riding of Mission—Coquitlam who are not only calling on the government to reject the current proposed goods and services tax but are asking that a reform in the taxation system be introduced so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations and to ensure that if and when there is broad public consensus on a sales tax