

*Routine Proceedings***PETITIONS****GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present a petition to the House signed by people in many communities in Ontario and Quebec. The petitioners ask the government not to impose the GST on magazines, books, and newspapers.

Never since Confederation has a tax been placed on these items. This government is planning to tax reading by taxing books and newspapers. These people want the system left tax-free so that it will not inhibit reading and the dissemination of knowledge in any way.

RADIO LICENCE FEES

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a great many concerned citizens in my riding wherein they say that the fire departments provide a very vital service in protecting the lives and property of citizens.

The federal Department of Communications has imposed huge increases in licence fees for radio-telecommunications, including all emergency service radio equipment. This will make it very difficult for these fire departments because a great many of them deal in voluntary service. They are not paid. They risk their lives on a regular basis.

The communities have to fund these departments and to pay the costs. The communities are strapped now and will perhaps be more so if the economy keeps going into recession.

I think it is very unfair for the government to request increased fees and thereby jeopardize the services that fire departments provide.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions from people in Victoria and Montreal. They call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

Again this government will not listen to the many Canadians who have signed petitions. They are forced to

call upon the government to recognize the fact that the printed word should not be taxed and should retain the favoured position it has held in the past.

They ask that their petition be heard.

CANADA POST

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table several petitions containing almost 400 names of persons from the villages of Watford and Alvinston in my riding of Lambton—Middlesex.

The petitioners are availing themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present their grievance to the House, urging the government to ensure long-term operation of the post offices in their respective communities. The petitioners are upset that the government is closing them down in towns and villages across rural Canada. They do not want their mail to be dispensed through Becker's or 7 Eleven stores.

I just want to say a special thank you to the village council in Watford for leading this fight and a special thank you to Stella Ferguson for leading this fight on behalf of the constituents in her area.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, under the government's proposed goods and services tax reading materials such as magazines, books, and newspapers will be taxed. Such a tax will jeopardize literacy and learning and will undermine the important role of education.

These hundreds of petitioners from across Ontario call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

I received a response from the government to previous petitions on the GST, and the government admits in its own words that it will tax reading materials.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition today. I note that just the other evening the new Tory majority in the Senate gouged Canadians again by refusing an amendment to the goods and services tax bill that would have saved Canadians from excessive heating fuel charges this winter. This greedy, grasping government is proceeding