

PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, as you can see I have a pile of petitions, but I will present them all at once for the sake of brevity.

These petitioners are concerned about the government's decision to proceed with the goods and services tax. They have a long list of concerns as to why they are against it.

These petitioners are from Kamloops, Westsyde, Brocklehurst, Avola, Westmount, Batchelor Hills, Barriere, Dallas, Valleyview, Blue River, Paul Lake, Barnhartvale, Knutsford, Chase, Clearwater, Blackpool, Birch Island, Kamloops Indian Reserve, Wells Gray Park, Chu Chua, Skwaam Bay, Black Pines, Harpers Ranch, Rayleigh, Niskonlith Lake, Louis Creek, Logan Lake, Little Fort, Heffley Creek, Darfield, McLure, Monte Creek, East Barriere Lake, Vinsulla, Trapp Lake, Tranquille Plateau, Monte Lake, Pinantan Lake, Pritchard, Savona, Vavenby, Westwold, Deadman's Creek, Lac Le Jeune and Cherry Creek.

They are asking that the Parliament of Canada do whatever it can to stop the government from proceeding with the goods and services tax.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, I have a petition sent to me by people from Alberta who strongly object to this imposition of an additional sales tax on goods and services.

They claim that the Conservative federal government wants to impose on Canadians a new hidden tax which will touch about everything they buy, that the imposition of the new general goods and services tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle income Canadians and, further, that the imposition of this tax will create an onerous burden on small business.

They claim that this is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians. They will be hit not only with higher taxes but higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

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

Routine Proceedings

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Madam Speaker, I have pleasure in rising to present a petition, pursuant to the appropriate Standing Order, from some people in Windsor, Ontario.

The prayer of their petition is one that will come as no surprise. They want this nefarious, objectionable, unreasonable goods and services tax done away with before it ever sees the light of day. I have great pleasure in supporting the prayer of their petition.

They are appealing to people on the government side to start listening to the real people out there in Windsor and other parts of this country.

• (1140)

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Madam Speaker, I have the privilege, responsibility and the honour to present and totally support a petition signed by hundreds of residents of Val Thérèse, Val Caron, Blezard Valley, Capreol, Coniston, Sudbury, Garson, Lively, Naughton, Walton, Noelville, and St. Charles.

They point out that the proposed goods and services tax is a regressive tax, that it does not respect the ability of the taxpayer to pay, and that in fact the government has not addressed the present unfair tax system which permits wealthy Canadians and corporations to pay little or no federal tax at all.

Therefore they ask Parliament to call upon this government to cease the proposal which will shift the tax burden on to the backs of ordinary Canadians through this regressive consumption tax.

ROUGE RIVER VALLEY

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Madam Speaker, the first item of business in the House of Commons for the 1990s brought members of the House of Commons together in a united way in voting for the preservation of the Rouge Valley, 10,000 acres in metro Toronto, as a park.

I would like to present today names of petitioners who join with members of the House of Commons. These people are from Scarborough, Mississauga, Richmond Hill, North York, Markham and Toronto. They too wish to send a very strong message to Premier Peterson of Ontario to have the Rouge Valley saved as a park.

This is a very unique and precious natural area. It is in the national interest to preserve this wildlife and wilderness area.