

Routine Proceedings

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to present a certified petition with 49 signatures calling on the House to legislate to protect the rights of the unborn.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): I have two other petitions, Mr. Speaker. One is signed by 70 people calling on the government to scrap its proposed goods and services tax.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): I have another petition, Mr. Speaker, signed by 46 constituents calling on the government to reconsider recent budget cuts affecting veterans' lodging.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a petition today dealing with the infamous tax concerning services and products which will be imposed by this government in January 1991.

This petition presents serious arguments against the imposition of this regressive tax. The petition says that it will be applied unjustly to Canadians, that it will complicate their lives, and will make small business very difficult to administer. As a matter of fact, it will be an onerous burden on small business.

These people strongly oppose this goods and services tax which is, in their view, an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians and will hit them not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest rates—and God knows we have them now—and higher unemployment which is still with us.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present a petition signed by substantially over 100 residents of my riding of Kingston and the Islands, who indicate their support for the proposition that no tax be applied to books and magazines, to the printed word in Canada, a democratic country. They submit that culture and education in a literate and productive society would be affected by the imposition of a tax on the printed word.

They call on Parliament to reaffirm this basic tenet or principle of democracy and reject a tax as proposed by this government on the printed word as embodied in the

legislation supporting the GST, Bill C-62. They call on Parliament to reject that bill and that tax.

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present three petitions all related to the goods and services tax, all somewhat different in their focus. They are all wanting Parliament to scrap the tax. Today's news is that the inflationary pressures of tax increases by the government are in fact increasing the interest rates and endangering small business.

The petitioners want us to make it known that while there is a broad public consensus to scrap the manufacturers' sales tax, the government should not use it as an opportunity to impose a massive tax grab.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, I too have the pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36. It is signed by quite a number of people from southeastern Ontario.

The petition says that the Minister of Finance's proposed goods and services tax is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for a taxpayer's ability to pay. The petitioners call on Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations. They also ask the government to cease with a proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.

• (1120)

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present, on behalf of hundreds of petitioners, a large number of petitions which have been certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The petitioners are concerned that the government has not addressed the unfair taxation system currently in place which permits wealthy Canadians and corporations to pay little or no federal tax, while forcing low and middle income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden. The government is now trying to tax piano lessons, haircuts, diapers, coffins and even consumer loans, which some Canadians must take out just to pay their taxes.

Therefore they call on all members of this House—and I know, Mr. Speaker, you will be at the front of the line to oppose the GST when it comes before the