

*Routine Proceedings*

that would be progressive and would be in the interests of all Canadians, not just those Canadians who have a high income.

They view this as a massive tax grab and I am privileged to table these petitions on their behalf.

## SOCIAL PROGRAMS

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present petitions today on a number of subjects.

I have a petition signed by many senior citizens from my constituency of Burnaby—Kingsway who express serious concern about the clawback on old age security benefits to pensioners. They suggest that the taxing back of old age security is a direct threat to the principle of universality which is at the core of the Canadian social system.

They urge that Parliament reject the government's policy to initiate an inequitable and unjust clawback of old age security benefits.

## POVERTY

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which has been signed once again by residents of Burnaby and Vancouver which points out that one-sixth of all Canadian children live in poverty. The number of children living in poverty in some provinces is as high as 26 per cent. It is particularly high in the Atlantic provinces where there is a crisis, whether or not the Prime Minister recognizes it.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to support private member's motion No. 254 initiated by my very distinguished colleague from Mission—Coquitlam.

They call upon the government to negotiate with the provinces to provide a comprehensive bill of rights for children.

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have petitions signed by hundreds of residents from across Canada including my own constituency. They are signed by many artists and actors from the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake who point out that railway passenger services carried on by VIA Rail is essential for many Canadians and has been a part of Canada for more than 100 years.

They express concern about the cuts in VIA Rail service and they call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger rail service across this land.

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Finally, Mr. Speaker, along with many other members of this House, I am sure from all sides, I wish to table petitions that have been signed once again by hundreds of Canadians, including particularly constituents from Burnaby—Kingsway, as well as seniors from the Bonsor Senior Centre, and members of the Construction and General Workers Union, Local 602.

These individuals express concern about the proposed goods and services tax. They point out that it is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for the taxpayers' ability to pay.

They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and to bring in meaningful tax reforms so that there is in fact an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations. They urge the government to reject this massive tax grab.

## SOCIAL PROGRAMS

**Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan):** Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition to present under Standing Order 36 signed by 136 residents of Nanaimo and the neighbouring community.

Petitioners argue that the enforced pay back of old age security benefits by pensioners with incomes over \$50,000 taints the legitimacy of social security benefits as income. Moreover, it is a threat to the principle of universality, which is the core of the Canadian social system.

The petitioners humbly pray and ask Parliament to reject the government policy to initiate this inequitable and unjust clawback of old age pension security benefits.

[*Translation*]

## TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AREAS

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, today I wish to present a petition that rejects the recommendations made by the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Isolated and Northern Areas. Your petitioners, who represent the isolated community of Label-sur-Quévillon in Abitibi, are concerned about the