

Routine Proceedings

• (1120)

PETITIONS**TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS**

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am tabling petitions from Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Chibougamau, further to the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas.

The signers ask the government to maintain the tax benefits for isolated communities north of the 49th parallel.

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have two tax related petitions that I would like to table with the House. They are both certified correct. One concerns the goods and services tax, the grief and suffering tax. Petitioners from all parts of Canada call upon the government to reject this most regressive tax and bring in a fair tax system.

NORTHERN TAX ALLOWANCE

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, you will recall that members of this House were presented with a report last October on the Northern Tax Allowance. These petitioners from the Robson Valley in my part of British Columbia, call upon the government to reject that most unfair report and to bring in positive recommendations regarding a northern and remote tax allowance.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present petitions with the signatures of 3,236 nurses, doctors, medical staff and concerned citizens from across Canada, united in their belief that nurses should have the right to choose not to participate in abortion for reasons of conscience or religion.

All the petitioners oppose the taking of precious human life through abortion and call upon Parliament to enact legislation prohibiting discrimination in employ-

ment, disqualification or coercion of nurses who refuse to participate in abortion for reasons of conscience.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the pleasure to present a number of petitions relating to the government's unfair tax system. The petitioners state that the government has not addressed the unfair tax system currently in place which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax, while forcing lower and middle-income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden. They call upon this government to abandon its current goods and services tax proposal and bring in tax reform.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition today, pursuant to Standing Order 36, the subject of which is VIA Rail cut-backs. The petition is signed by a number of Canadians. They call upon Parliament to urge the government of Canada not to cancel, in whole or in part, rail passenger services in Canada, and they cite a number of reasons for that.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have several petitions relating to the implementation of the goods and services tax from people all the way from Ottawa, Hull, Gloucester, London, Brantford and Kamloops, pointing out that this goods and services tax does not relate to people's ability to pay, that it is regressive, that it has not addressed the unfairness in the present tax system and implies that if that unfairness was addressed the present tax system would go a long way toward curing the financial ills of the government.

The petitioners decry the fact that the government is going to be taxing reading, haircuts, diapers, home heating fuels, many of those things which ordinary Canadians simply are not able to sustain because of their lack of high income. They call upon the government to bring in a tax system that is fair, progressive and not regressive, as the GST is.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)