

Routine Proceedings

Coquitlam, and Langley, who point out that one-sixth of all Canadian children live in poverty and that the number of children living in poverty has increased by 13 per cent in the last seven years, and that the number of children living in poverty in some provinces now is as high as 26 per cent.

The petitioners are asking all of us in the House of Commons to support Motion M-254 calling upon the government to negotiate with the provinces to provide a comprehensive bill of rights for children.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, a number of western Canadians are very concerned with the government's decision to curtail VIA Rail service and to cut back its operation significantly and are asking Parliament to urge the government not to cut back but in fact to invest in an up-dated VIA Rail service for the country like every other western industrialized nation is doing.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, this petition is again mainly from western Canadians who are distressed at this government's commitment to proceed with the goods and services tax, after all of the opposition. These petitioners point out whole sets of reasons why they are opposed to it, and basically I guess they are asking the government to just come to its senses, back off and go back to the drawing board.

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I table again today some 36 petitions humbly praying and calling upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax. It is my privilege to present these containing several thousand names of constituents in my riding.

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting a petition today on behalf of the residents of Carleton—Gloucester. I have well over 1,000 signatures and the petitioners are requesting the government to withdraw its proposed bill on a goods and services tax.

Like them, I feel that the goods and services tax is going to be a negative factor in the development of the Canadian economy, is going to be a negative factor in creating employment, and is going to be a negative factor for people with medium and low-incomes.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present petitions signed by some of my constituents in Gloucester in northeastern New Brunswick who categorically oppose the goods and services tax.

I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am very proud of the effort these people have made to inform the people of the region about the harmful effects of this goods and services tax and I hope that the Government of Canada will take account of their concerns.

[*English*]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and duty on behalf of a number of petitioners from Winnipeg and area, to present a petition which calls upon the Parliament of Canada to maintain VIA Rail Canada's present national network, and asks that Parliament upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and change the passenger act to give a firm legislative mandate for the continuing of VIA Rail across Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I also have a number of petitions dealing with the goods and services tax. The petitioners are constituents of mine and constituents from the next riding of The Battlefords. They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposals for the goods and services tax and to ensure that the tax which it does bring in is fair to all Canadians.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): I have the pleasure to present a petition signed by 32 of my constituents from Kingston and The Islands. These petitioners object to the proposed goods and services tax and call upon Parliament to reject any measure that will impose that tax.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that Question No. 126 will be answered today.