

raised a point when he said: "Should something not be done to address the problem stated most clearly by Senator MacDonald? When indeed can committees meet? Can they keep meeting while the Senate is sitting? I have a suggestion for you, Senator Frith and Senator Molgat. We are meeting on March 26. You could submit some concrete proposals for us to consider, the same way we intend to submit to your committee amendments to certain rules of the Senate. I think that, for the sake of good understanding between the two sides of this House, it would be useful that you too make suggestions.

I would go as far as to say that the Chairman of our Committee, Senator Robertson, intends to send for your consideration written proposals as soon as we come up with something concrete. That is what I suggest you do. It is high time we have more co-operation in this House regarding our rules. I would not want you to think it is entirely up to us to make suggestions all the time. If you have good, concrete, clever ideas for us to consider, submit them, the same way we intend to submit ours to you.

Hon. Eymard Corbin: As you did last June. Well done!
Motion agreed to.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP STUDY—NOTICE OF MOTION TO PERMIT ELECTIONS MEDIA COVERAGE

Hon. Paul David: Honourable senators, I give notice that tomorrow, Thursday, March 19, 1992, I will move that the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be empowered to authorize the coverage of its public proceedings on Canadian citizenship by photographers and electronic news media, without disrupting the proceedings too much.

• (1440)

[English]

TIBET

ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL UPRISING—NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Hon. Consiglio Di Nino: Honourable senators, I give notice that on Tuesday next, March 24, 1992, I will call the attention of the Senate to the 33rd anniversary of the Tibetan national uprising.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Jacques Hébert: By popular demand, honourable senators, I have the honour, again, to present petitions signed by 610 citizens of Alberta who oppose the goods and services tax.

These petitions come mainly from Peace River, Grande Prairie, St. Isidore, Grimshaw, Valleyview, Lethbridge, Spruce Grove and Stoney Plain.

[Senator Grimard.]

I have even more petitions signed by 3,200 citizens of Ontario who oppose the goods and services tax. These petitions come mainly from Windsor, Essex and Tecumseh.

This makes a total of some 3,800 signatures. If I were on the other side of this House, I would frankly be embarrassed to see that 3,800 Canadian citizens signed this petition. They wrote their name and address to tell the government that they reject a tax which we have all had to endure for more than a year.

Frankly, I would be embarrassed if I were in Senator Simard's place. His outbursts are meant to hide his embarrassment!

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ARTICLE XI—CLARIFICATION OF CANADA'S POSITION—MEETINGS OF HEADS OF STATE—EXCLUSION OF CANADA

Hon. H. A. Olson: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government a question or two respecting what has happened recently at the GATT. I am aware that Canada presented a paper on its position in response to requests made by various countries respecting some suggestions made by Mr. Dunkel. I wonder if the leader could advise the house as to what Canada's position was, and is, respecting Article XI.

The second part of my question has to do with meetings that will take place starting tomorrow, I believe, between Helmut Kohl of Germany and the President of the United States. These meetings will be such that Canada and many other nations will not be at the table. They are apparently intending to make some decisions to deal with the impasse respecting the negotiations that are going on in Geneva at the moment. I am wondering what Canada's position is with regard to the concept of a couple of other countries taking on the task of negotiating matters that are so vital to Canada.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, to take the latter part of Senator Olson's question first, there is nothing new, and surely nothing scandalous insofar as the honourable senator is concerned, in the leaders of two countries such as the United States and Germany having a bilateral meeting, which is what is happening between Chancellor Kohl and President Bush in Washington. I may say, however, with regard to Canada's position, and especially with regard to agricultural matters, that Prime Minister Mulroney, in very recent days, has been in touch with both the Chancellor and the President. Both of these leaders are well acquainted, well informed and up to date on our position.

Regarding the first part of the question raised by Senator Olson, it is true that on March 4 we tabled our draft initial offers on agriculture to the multilateral trade negotiations.