

Your petitioners, representing the isolated community of Lebel-sur-Quévillon in Abitibi, are concerned about the report's recommendations that will cause a number of workers to be laid off. They believe the federal government refuses to consider the fact that life in the North is harsh, isolated and expensive.

Mr. Speaker, according to the disparity index for the 84 isolated communities designated by the Government of Quebec in October 1989, Lebel-sur-Quévillon ranks seventieth in Quebec.

[English]

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to rise under Standing Order 36 and present petitions signed by many people who are strongly opposed to the government's goods and services tax. They feel that this new tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle-income Canadians, that it will create an onerous burden on small business and that not only will it create higher taxes but higher inflation, higher interest and higher unemployment. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise under Standing Order 36. I have signatures here that add up to 30 but all in all I have close to 9,000 petitioners who are against the goods and services tax. These people note that in the last five years personal income tax collection has gone from \$39 billion to \$59 billion practically and that represents a very large increase in personal income tax, close to 90 per cent.

The petitioners are concerned about the 31 new tax increases. They are concerned that the government in power has taken the manufacturers' sales tax up to 13.5 per cent over stages from 9 per cent. They are concerned about the effect this will have on low and middle-income families. They are concerned about the effect it is going to have on small business and the extra administration that will be involved and, indeed, the wherewithal for some of the businesses, in fact most of the businesses in my riding to cope with this. Those who are so close to the margin are scared out of their minds.

These people humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject this proposed goods and services tax.

#### Routine Proceedings

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition which I would like to table pursuant to Standing Order 36 of the House of Commons. This petition is signed by a number of Canadians who are opposed to the government's plan to impose a goods and services tax, or a GST, which should properly be called a grief and suffering tax, at any per cent. These people are humbly praying—they really mean it—and calling upon Parliament and the Government of Canada to reject the goods and services tax at any per cent.

• (1530)

[Translation]

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour):** Mr. Speaker, it is also my duty to present in the House a number of petitions from residents in my riding of Beauséjour. Your petitioners wish to express their opposition to the government's tax proposal and they humbly pray Parliament to reject said proposal.

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[English]

#### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 171 revised, 186, 191, 192, 193, 194, 199 and 200.

[Text]

#### THE VOLUME OF WATER PER MONTH REMOVED FROM LAKE MICHIGAN THROUGH THE CHICAGO SHIP CANAL

Question No. 171—**Mr. Milliken:**

For (a) 1985 (b) 1986 (c) 1987 (d) 1988 (e) 1989 to date, what is the volume of water per month removed from Lake Michigan through the Chicago Ship Canal?

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment):** The Chicago Diversion, initiated in 1848, removes water from Lake Michigan at Chicago for the purposes of domestic, sanitary, navigation and hydro-electric power in the Illinois Waterway. The waterway connects with the upper Mississippi River. Diversion prior to 1900 averaged about 500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Upon completion of the Sanitary and Ship Canal, diversions progressively increased to a maximum of about 10,000 cfs