

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 19, 1991

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to several petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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BILL C-73

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-73, an act to provide for the dissolution or transfer of certain crown corporations and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, with one amendment.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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PETITIONS

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure this morning to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents from Kamloops, British Columbia, who point out a whole set of reasons why they feel the government ought to be paying more attention to passenger rail service and point out how they believe VIA Rail service could be improved to compete with some of the European railways. They are simply asking the government to reconsider its decision to cut back on VIA Rail service in Canada.

• (1110)

PERSIAN GULF

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present another petition on behalf of a large number of British Columbians, particularly from the communities of Kamloops, Salmon Arm and Soreto, who point out a number of concerns regarding the situation in the gulf as it has occurred and as it is unfolding. They are asking for Canada's participation in a most positive way in the post-conflict period.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I have several sets of petitions today. The first set of petitions comes from constituents in my riding of Cape Breton Highlands—Canso, concerning the goods and services tax which my constituents still feel is an onerous and unfair tax and they wish to make Parliament aware of their ongoing opposition to this tax.

The petitioners are from West Arichat, St. Peters, and various places in my constituency. They wish to register their ongoing opposition to this tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): The second petition concerns the elimination of VIA passenger rail service from Truro to Antigonish, Nova Scotia. The petitions come, first of all, from the students of St. Francis Xavier University, who are opposed to the government's decision to abandon VIA Rail passenger service. They point out that since that passenger rail service was abandoned over a year ago, the transportation needs of the students are much more difficult to meet. It is a burden on students in the area who want to leave on weekends because the alternatives to passenger rail transportation are much more expensive.

Another group of petitions concerning VIA Rail passenger service comes from the town of Antigonish. The residents of the town of Antigonish, more than one year after the elimination of this service, are still opposed vigorously to the government's decision and have shown up in large numbers to express their concerns by signing a petition to that effect.