

POVERTY

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the other petitions concern women and seniors in poverty.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, 50 per cent of Canadian women who file tax returns have incomes of \$10,000 or less, compared to only 23 per cent of Canadian men.

The petitioners, in this instance, call upon the government to provide and introduce a tax system that is simpler and fairer for average Canadians, particularly for those who are poor and particularly for senior women. Mr. Speaker, I have another petition with regard to seniors in poverty. Based on the fact that 60 per cent of women age 65 and older live below the poverty line, the petitioners call upon this government to introduce reforms to our public pension system which will ensure that all women, whether or not they are in the paid labour force, receive pensions which allow them to live with dignity and allow them to participate fully in society.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jerry Pickard (Essex—Kent): Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, with a petition from those who are very much opposed to the taxing of reading materials. Taxing reading materials causes a great problem for Canadian publishers who are in competition with others. We well know that that type of competition is not positive for Canada, nor is it positive for those who wish to receive printed material. It seems to me to be a burden which we have always tried to bring a tax-free relationship to.

In this case, the goods and services tax, I believe, will be very, very negative to education, to programs that we have in this country, and to the dissemination of information.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I also want to rise under Standing Order 36 to present an important petition from quite a number of smaller towns in southern Ontario such as Brantford, Hamilton, Simcoe, Thorold, et cetera. These Canadian citizens state that the government must remove the goods and services tax. They say that we need an effective tax system with a minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, and that we need broad consensus on a sales tax measure that would be effective to replace the manufacturers'

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sales tax but we do not need or do not want the goods and services tax. The petitioners call on the government to remove this plan for the goods and services tax and institute a progressive form of taxation.

• (1140)

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and duty to rise today to present two petitions certified correct as to form and content, both of which are signed by citizens living in the Ottawa area.

Both petitions deal with the goods and services tax. They zero in on a specific problem, and I use the word "zero" advisedly, because they zero in on the fact that books have never been taxed. They have always been taxed at what is called a zero rate for magazines, books and newspapers. Now under the proposed GST, for the first time, the government is proposing to tax these otherwise never before taxed items.

Therefore, these Canadian citizens ask Parliament to ensure that we respect the historic principle of never having taxed books, magazines and literature before and ensure that the GST legislation does not do so.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by several voters here in Ottawa who are opposed to the GST. These Canadians are particularly concerned about the government's proposal to apply this tax to printed matter and to books which are so important in a democratic society.

[*English*]

These petitioners, like so many others, are appalled at the government proceeding with this tax when so many millions of Canadians have indicated their opposition to it, and they have signed this petition joining those other Canadians.

AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): The second petition is on another subject matter. It was signed by a number of electors in Kingston and the Islands, and in the surrounding area represented in this House by the hon. member for Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington. He is supporting a government which is proposing to sell out Canada's system for