

Routine Proceedings

Canada, namely Mrs. Thérèse Casgrain and Mr. Jean Marchand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read first time and ordered to be printed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): When shall the Bill be read for the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of numerous residents of the province of Newfoundland who, at the request of the very distinguished member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception, have signed a petition opposing the goods and services tax introduced by the mean-spirited government opposite.

These petitioners complain about the fact that they have already been taxed to the hilt by this government. They are opposed to this tax. They feel it will create an onerous burden on small business in particular, will result in manifest unfairness to the taxpayers of Canada and to the businesses that are obliged to pay the collection costs of this iniquitous tax, and they call upon Parliament to reject the goods and services tax.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition to present to the House dealing with this terrible imposition upon Canadians of the goods and services tax starting in January, 1991.

The petitioners would like to impress upon the House their strong objections to the imposition of a new tax that will increase the cost of living for all Canadians. It will be inflationary, cause unemployment, and probably higher

interest rates. I understand the Tories all know that, and if they know it, they should not be doing it.

The words of these petitioners are telling these great Tory members, who know all about the dire effects of this tax, not to proceed with this tax at this time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of Mr. Yih-Sheh Leo, a Canadian citizen and taxpayer who has been put in prison in Taiwan.

Mr. Leo was arrested unlawfully and sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for exercising his right to return to his native land and is currently under indictment on sedition charges facing a minimum term of 10 years in prison.

There are over 200 petitioners from across Canada who call upon the Canadian government to take immediate and effective measures to secure Mr. Leo's release including, but not limited to, the following: issue a public statement expressing Canada's concern over a Canadian citizen's rights being violated; instruct the Canadian Embassy in Japan, or the High Commissioner's Office in Hong Kong, to send a representative to Taiwan; appoint a lawyer to handle the case; and request Canada's allies which have representatives in Taiwan to assist with this case.

This is a very serious case and the petitioners deserve to be heard by the government.

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[*Translation*]

THE PROGRAM FOR OLDER WORKER ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 36, it is my pleasure to introduce a petition bearing 2,657 signatures, and asking the Government to alter the regulations governing the Program for Older Worker Adjustment. As you know, in the metropolitan area, people employed by companies with less than 100 employees are not covered by this program. This is discrimination considering that in Canada, 98 percent of companies are small businesses with less than 100 employees.

Therefore, I dare believe that the Government will listen to them. This is the second petition I am introducing in this regard, but we already have more than 5,000 signatures of persons who are asking that this regulation be amended immediately, Mr. Speaker.