

The petitioners point out a whole set of reasons why they oppose the government's goods and services tax that is now before the Senate. They suggest that the Parliament of Canada should do whatever it can to encourage the government to drop this very oppressive tax, go back to the drawing-board and introduce a tax reform that is fair and just, as opposed to this very cruel goods and services tax.

#### CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Madam Speaker, on another issue I have petitions from people who are calling upon the government to take action against the situation of so many children in Canada who live in poverty. They are asking the government to support motion M-254, which calls upon the government to negotiate with the provinces the provision of a comprehensive bill of rights for children. However, the government voted against proceeding with that initiative.

• (1610)

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure to present to the House of Commons a petition from a number of my constituents in connection with the unjust and improper imprisonment of Yi-Shih Leo, who is a Canadian citizen, by the government of Taiwan.

Mr. Leo has been in jail for speaking about democratic rights in Taiwan. His only offence is to have exercised freedom of speech, which we are told exists in Taiwan, but which apparently exists in such a fashion so that when it is exercised it puts one in jail. On behalf of my constituents, I present this petition.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, I have a petition signed by numerous residents of Kingston and the Islands who are protesting the government's goods and services tax in so far as the tax will apply to books, magazines and newspapers. These items are currently untaxed.

Under the proposed goods and services tax that is now before the other place, the government proposes to tax these items as though they were some common commodity when in fact, as Your Honour will know, they are the printed word and normally have been exempt from

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government taxation, not just in Canada but in other lands.

I am sure that these petitioners who call upon Parliament to reject the tax in so far as it applies to such publications either in the statutes or the regulations would be appalled to know that their rights now depend on the other place and not on this House. Nevertheless, they call on this House, if it should get an opportunity, to express its displeasure at the government's actions in respect of this unfair tax.

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise under Standing Order 36 to present to this House a petition signed by 335 Canadians.

These Canadians are essentially low-income earners who are very concerned about the effect that the GST will have on them. Essentially, they are in the \$20,000 a year income bracket. They will be spending between 93 per cent and 95 per cent of their money on consumption, whereas those in higher income brackets will be spending about 50 per cent.

The petitioners feel that it is blatantly unfair for them to be burdened with the goods and services tax. They are also concerned about other aspects as well. However, they are concerned mostly with the fact that the burden will be on their shoulders. Despite what some hon. members on the other side of the House who are sitting here today have said, they will not be better off, and they are pretty sure of that.

It is my honour to present this petition to you, Madam Speaker, for your consideration.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon the House of Commons and the other House to reject this goods and services tax.

**Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury):** Madam Speaker, I am happy today to be presenting another petition against the goods and the services tax. This petition was sent to me in February of this year. However, this is the first chance I have had to present it.

The petitioners are totally opposed to the goods and services tax. They are especially worried about the tax as it relates to a levy on skating expenses, including instructor fees, facility rentals, equipment purchases and other related skating expenses.

They are also concerned that the proposed tax will place a significant financial burden on the families of young athletes, thereby deterring them from entering