

*Routine Proceedings**[Translation]*

## PETITIONS

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to table today at least half a dozen petitions on behalf of Canadians who are strongly opposed to a tax on books.

*[English]*

These people claim that it has been a tradition in Canada not to tax magazines, books and newspapers, that the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word as a cornerstone of democracy, culture, education, and a literate and productive society will be negatively affected by the application of the proposed goods and services tax.

The undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax free status of the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.

*[Translation]*

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out the slogan the editors came out with in Quebec and that I find quite striking. It says: "To tax books is imposing ignorance."

*[English]*

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions, both approved as to form by the clerk of petitions.

It is an honour to present a petition signed by almost 3,000 residents of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario concerning the proposed goods and services tax.

In a sentence, the petition says that the tax would be inflationary and regressive. It would reduce the standard of living of Canadians generally. Agreeing fully with the thrust of the petition, I am honoured to present it.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, the second petition is on behalf of approximately 132 residents of Edmonton, Toronto, London and Oakville about the imprisonment of Mr. Yih-Sheh Leo, a Canadian citizen in Taiwan. Among other things, they call for

the Government of Canada to do everything possible to obtain his early release.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition with regard to the goods and services tax.

This petition is part of 17,000 names which were collected by Mrs. Idris O'Neill of St. Catharines, Ontario and submitted to this House beforehand.

I was struck by the words which are used in presenting this petition. They are: "the right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners," meaning the people who sign this, "in the certain assurance that your honourable House will therefore provide a remedy."

This is one of the series of petitions which has been put in this House of Commons by many members of Parliament. It would seem that the only remedy that this government is going to give us is more of the same. It is just not listening to the people of Canada who have been saying for many months that they do not want this tax.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present three sets of petitions signed by a number of constituents in Massey, Ontario, in Little Current and Sheguiandah on Manitoulin Island and Thessalon, Ontario.

The petitioners call on the government to maintain its support and services to veterans. They point out that veterans of Canada have already made a great contribution to this country, both in wartime and in peace. They call on the government to maintain those services and not deprive them of much-needed services and assistance in times of hardship.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, I have three other petitions signed by several hundred constituents in Espanola, Makaroff and in Wawa. I also have petitions from Kagawong, Gore Bay and Meldrum Bay on Manitoulin Island calling on the government to withdraw the goods and services tax.

The petitioners would have to do this at the Senate level because the bill has been passed in the House. They point out the unfairness of the tax to low-income