

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[*English*]

PETITIONS

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of the province of Manitoba concerning the proposed goods and services tax that the government is presenting. These petitioners present the ways in which the tax will unfairly affect them and they ask humbly that the government withdraw this goods and services tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present a petition today on behalf of a number of western Canadians who point out a whole set of reasons why they are disenchanted and very disappointed with the government's decision to reduce and curtail VIA Rail service, and they are asking the government to reverse that decision and actually invest in an effort to improve and modernize our passenger rail service, as virtually every other western industrialized nation has done.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on a second issue, there are hundreds of petitioners who point out their concern with the government's goods and services tax and are asking the government to reconsider what it is doing and essentially forget the tax.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty today to present petitions from my constituency of Saskatoon—Humboldt and the constituency of the Minister of National Defence. These constituents ask the government to reject the goods and services tax and to put in place a tax that is more fair to all Canadians and not one that is regressive.

It is interesting that small-town Saskatchewan is supplying these petitions as in many cases every member of the community signs the petition.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I am presenting a petition from roughly 800 residents of the riding of Comox—Alberni on the west coast of Canada who call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax which they characterize as shifting the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform, and they call for reform of the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of private music teachers in my constituency, and I know that this reflects the concerns of music teachers in Manitoba and across Canada, I want to present this petition which asks for the abolition of the goods and services tax on music, which is an enrichment for all of us. It is another tax on education, another tax on culture and another tax on children and others who, quite rightly, profit from music education.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to present a petition from another 100 residents of Ottawa West and other ridings in the national capital region objecting to the fact that the government has increased the manufacturers' sales tax by 50 per cent, from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent, and now proposes to replace that increased tax by the goods and services tax. These petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

• (1210)

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and honour today to rise to present a petition on behalf of a number of producers from western Canada who are concerned about the future that this government is providing with respect to agriculture.

They are particularly concerned with the fact that the government has removed oats from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and are concerned over the future of supply management and orderly marketing in this country.