

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, February 4, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 17 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

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POINT OF ORDER

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I simply seek your guidance on whether or not the Minister of the Environment should be making a statement as Minister of the Environment in relation to the alarming announcements of the observations of atmospheric decline over the northern hemisphere that were made yesterday, with a 35 per cent decline in the ozone layer. This is extremely alarming, Mr. Speaker. As you know, each 1 per cent decline in the ozone can be accompanied by a 4 per cent increase in skin cancer. I believe there is a responsibility on the Minister of the Environment to indicate to this Chamber and to Canadians exactly what he and the government intends to do about it.

• (1010)

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The issue raised by the hon. member is a very important one. However, I

think it would be more appropriate to raise it during Oral Question Period this afternoon. When the hon. member wishes to question the Minister of the Environment, he will have an opportunity to do so. I suggest he take advantage of that opportunity.

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ASIAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATION TABLING OF REPORT OF TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Gilbert Chartrand (Verdun—Saint-Paul): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34, I have the honour to present to the House, in both official languages, the report on the Twelfth General Assembly of the AIPO, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from November 18 to 23, 1991.

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[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents, and I mean a large number of constituents, pages and pages. I have not counted them, but there must be at least a few thousand here.

There is an ongoing concern about what the goods and services tax is doing to them personally, their families, their businesses. They say it is literally the death knell in terms of the local economy in Kamloops. They are asking the government to, for goodness sake, at this last gasp as we begin the new year do the right thing, send some symbol of hope and withdraw this dastardly tax.

NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): On another issue, Mr. Speaker, a number of constituents from British Columbia have heard the announcement that a firm is requesting approval to divert the North Thompson River into a variety of channels and eventually down to the Los Angeles area. They are saying to the Canadian government: "Please stand up and say on behalf of Canadians that our rivers are not for sale".