

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners are asking Parliament to support Private Members' Motion No. 254 regarding children's rights and are calling on the government to negotiate with the provinces to provide a comprehensive bill of rights for children in Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): The last for petitions but I am sure the first in the heart of the Speaker.

It is my pleasure today to stand and present 13 petitions pursuant to Standing Order 36, with 1,954 names from various places in my riding, such as Naramata, Kaleden, Princeton, Rock Creek, Bridesville, Okanagan Falls, Keremeos, Hedley, Oliver, Osoyoos, Christina Lake and Penticton.

The petitioners are upset with the goods and services tax as proposed by the government. They are asking Parliament to reject the current proposal for the goods and services tax, to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, to ensure that if and when there is broad public consensus on a sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab, and, finally, to cause the government to cease with a proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, one month from tomorrow the policy announced by the government to scupper our national rail system will take effect and the VIA cut-backs announced by the Minister of Transport some time ago will go into effect to the great dismay of thousands of Canadians from coast to coast, indeed millions of Canadians.

I have a petition signed by some of the people who are so concerned and upset about this bad decision on the part of the government.

The petitioners are residents of the riding of Kingston and the Islands. They went to the time and trouble to sign a petition to call upon this Parliament to urge the government not to cancel in whole or in part rail passenger service in Canada.

I note that the petition was signed before the disastrous government decision was announced, and I know, if these people could be approached again to ask their views of the decision that the government announced, there would be even a stronger objection than that contained in the petition.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Howard Crosby (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have been asked to advise the House on behalf of the deputy House leader that all questions should be allowed to stand.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall the questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has received notice of an application under Standing Order 52 from the hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso.

The Chair has also received notice of a question of privilege from the hon. member for Ottawa South.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

ATLANTIC FISHERY

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 52, I ask leave to move a motion that the House adjourn to discuss a matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the dire consequences facing thousands of families in Atlantic Canada's fishing communities as a result of recent and anticipated fish plant closings in the Atlantic fishery, and the urgent need for government action to deal with this crisis in Atlantic Canada.

• (1220)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The matter raised by the member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso is no doubt a most serious and important matter. For that reason I will consider it before giving a decision, which I would intend to give at three o'clock.