

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, apropos to that last petition, I have a similar petition. Phone rates are regulated; cable rates are not. The New Democratic Party and thousands of petitioners say: "Why not?" We have petitions from all over the country. These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to adopt Bill C-284, which is my Private Member's Bill on regulating the cable rate, and apply rate-of-return regulations to the cable industry so that cable rates can be regulated like telephone rates.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a petition signed by numerous Canadians who point out that cable prices increased by 6 per cent annually between 1984 and 1988 and by 29 per cent over 18 months during 1988-89 at a time when telephone prices actually dropped. The petitioners join with others in calling upon Parliament to adopt Bill C-284 and apply rate-of-return regulations to the cable industry.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a petition that has been certified under Standing Order 36 as correct to form and content. The petitioners, who are from across Canada, raise their concern about the fact that the cable industry is the only territorial monopoly in Canada whose profits are unregulated. They also point that the cable companies made an average of 32 per cent profit on fixed assets in 1988, more than twice the level of the regulated telephone companies and, if I may add, almost three times as much as the natural gas utilities in the province of Ontario are allowed to make.

These petitioners call upon Parliament to adopt Bill C-284 in the name of my colleague, and apply rate-of-return regulations to the cable industry. I think these people deserve a fair deal.

**Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise under Standing Order 36. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I present this petition signed by numerous Canadians who have seen charges by the cable television industry increase without any apparent control over the last few years. What the petitioners are asking for is a fair deal. They are asking Parliament to pass Bill C-284 and apply rate-of-return regulations to the cable industry.

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt):** Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions. The first one, pursuant to Standing Order 36, is like the others, calling on Parliament to regulate the cable industry the same as the telephone industry is regulated. The petitioners call upon Parliament to adopt Bill C-284 in the name of the member for Port Moody—Coquitlam, and apply rate-of-return regulations to the cable industry.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt):** The second petitioner, Mr. Speaker, I add to the thousands of names that I have already submitted in petitions of people who are against the goods and services tax.

These petitioners, like thousands and thousands of others, millions across Canada, and in the latest Gallup poll 76 per cent, show that they are against this particular goods and services tax. They are calling upon Parliament to stop the proposal and asking the government to at least delay the implementation until it can guarantee that the Canadian taxpayers will not face another tax rip-off.

**Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 it is my pleasure to present petitions by New Brunswickers and from people all across Canada who are strongly opposed to the GST and, more particularly, opposed to the tax on written materials, and so it is a pleasure to present this petition.

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to present a number of petitions on behalf of Manitobans who are deeply concerned about the application of the GST to books, magazines and newspapers.

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They point out that this has never happened in the history of Canada. They would also like parliamentarians to understand that the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word is a cornerstone of democracy, of our culture and of our educational system, and that the application of the GST would be counterproductive.

They humbly pray and call upon all of us in the House of Commons to reaffirm this historic principle embodied in tax-free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations.