

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 3, 1989

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to two petitions, Nos. 342-0872 and 342-0873.

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

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PETITIONS

VIA RAIL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today to present three petitions signed by 194 constituents. They call upon the Parliament of Canada to maintain VIA Rail's present national network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

These petitions are signed by the residents of Churchill, Weir River, Norway House, Wabowden, Thompson, Gillam, Sundance, York Landing, Snow Lake, Pikwitonei, and Pukatawagan. Many of these communities rely solely on an adequate VIA service.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by several persons living in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. This is in addition to the many I tabled yesterday from people in my own riding of Brant.

They call upon the government not to reduce rail passenger service, but rather to maintain, improve and modernize VIA Rail service in those areas of the country where it can provide a more rapid, economical, safe, convenient, environmentally sound and energy-efficient alternative to other means of transportation.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Madam Speaker, I have a petition signed by a number of people from Windsor, Ontario, who strongly oppose the proposed goods and services tax. on the pockets of Canadians and will hit them not only with higher taxes, but with higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment. The petitioners ask this Parliament to reject this tax.

VIA RAIL

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, I also rise to present a petition from a number of residents of Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster who are very concerned about the proposed cuts to VIA Rail which they consider to be essential for many Canadians and which has been a part of Canada for more than 100 years.

These cuts will result in a serious reduction in passenger railway service and threatens maintenance, safety and jobs and would eliminate a third of our national passenger railway system. The petitioners call on Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade Via equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out a mandate to provide passenger service.

[*Translation*]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, I have the honour of presenting, on behalf of the *Club de l'Âge d'or* in Saint-Hyppolite, a petition which calls upon the Government to reject the new goods and services tax, in view of the negative impact the tax will have on low and middle-income Canadians.