

Routine Proceedings

wish to table a petition on behalf of the thousands of workers in my riding who are worried about the proposed changes to the unemployment insurance program. You, Mr. Speaker, are aware that today we are to have third reading on that bill.

The petitioners urge the Canadian Government to rescind its decision to withdraw its contribution of \$2.9 billion to the UIC fund. In so doing the petitioners also wish to remind the government of a prior promise made to Canadians that social programs would not be cut.

WELLAND CANAL LANDS

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorald): Mr. Speaker, the second petition has to do with the Welland Canal lands. I have the honour to table a petition presented to me by Mayor Roland Hardy of Welland on behalf of thousands of my constituents who are concerned about the future use of the Welland Canal lands.

The petitioners urge the Canadian Government through the Ministry of Public Works to retain the Welland Canal lands as a major heritage and tourism resource for the benefit of the people of the immediate area, and also for all Canadians who would be interested in enjoying this enclave of natural beauty.

It should be noted that Mr. Terry Hughes of Welland, Ontario, co-ordinated many different groups to gather these signatures. I reiterate my own personal belief that not one square inch of the canal lands should be sold.

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Al Horning (Okanagan Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition with 33 names asking this Parliament to enact legislation which would effectively protect the life of the pre-born child without distinction as to the stage of development. These 33 names represent people from my constituency.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 which has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions. This petition is from a number of western Canadians who are very concerned about the government's intention to impose taxes on a whole range of

goods and services that are presently not taxed by the federal government in terms of the sales tax. They point out that any tax that would tax children's clothing, story books, skating, music lessons and so on has to be inappropriate.

They are calling upon Parliament simply to encourage the government to stop proceeding with the goods and services tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on another matter, unrelated, but again very important, petitioners from western Canada are concerned about the government's intention to cut VIA Rail service. They go on at some length in a very elaborate and thoughtful petition pointing out that passenger rail service is the most environmentally sound alternative to move people.

They are asking the government to indicate that if it is concerned about environmental deterioration that it reconsider cutting back on VIA Rail service and actually invest in a modern passenger rail system something which virtually every other western industrialized nation is doing.

[Translation]

OPPOSITION TO OVERFISHING

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to present a petition to the House signed by people in my riding, residents of Saint-Thomas, Cocagne and Cormierville. Your petitioners humbly declare that the sovereignty of Canada has been violated and its resources pillaged by countries engaging in overfishing off our coasts. By doing so, these countries have caused a crisis in the Atlantic fisheries, threatening the livelihood of dozens of communities. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to extend its jurisdiction to include the entire continental shelf, so that Canada can protect the fish resources so vital to communities in Atlantic Canada.

[English]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege today to present a petition properly certified by the Clerk of Petitions.