

*Petitions***PETITIONS**

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I suspect that you will be seeking unanimous consent as the government Whip has indicated for the forty-ninth report of the Striking Committee. I must say that it is impossible for me, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, to give my consent today. We have many, many concerns regarding the report. I think it deserves much more consideration. I think to be fair, this is a unilateral effort at this point. I would like to think that we can come to an accommodation between all the members of the House and simply not have one more government unilateral decision being foisted upon us.

• (1220)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary West on the same point.

Mr. Hawkes: Just on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have not yet asked for unanimous consent. It comes during Routine Proceedings at the point of Motions. If there are argument to be made and you wish to hear them, that would be the appropriate time. Certainly I am prepared to make some if that is your desire at that point, but normally we ask for unanimous consent, and it is given or denied. If we are going to hear arguments, I would be pleased to enter into that situation as well.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we should proceed and we will see whether the matter comes up again. The hon. parliamentary whip.

REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE IN FORTY-NINTH REPORT
OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, if the House gives its consent, I am prepared to move that the forty-ninth report of the Striking Committee presented to the House earlier this day be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not agreement.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me this afternoon to have an opportunity to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents from western Canada, particularly British Columbia, who point out their concern that the government has decided to attach a tax to reading material, including children's books. The petitioners feel that this is a stupid decision actually and are asking the Parliament of Canada to do whatever it can to have the government return to its senses and not proceed with taxing reading material.

On a second petition, Mr. Speaker, on a different topic but related I suppose, pursuant to Standing Order 36, and again on behalf of constituents primarily from Kamloops this time and from Logan Lake, British Columbia. The petitioners point out a whole set of reasons why they oppose the government's decision to proceed with the 7 per cent goods and services tax. They point out that 80 per cent of Canadians oppose this tax and that it is coming at a time of recession, and are asking that the government not proceed at this time.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition signed by numerous residents of Mississauga and Streetsville who are opposed to the application of the goods and services tax to books. They in their petition indicate that printed material has been exempt from taxation in this country and, indeed, most of the world for a very long time, they and are opposed to this tax.

They must be appalled that their representative in this House supports the tax and more so at the jackboot tactics used by the government in the other place.

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present two petitions to this House. One is with respect to the goods and services tax. A number of residents in the city of Moose Jaw have presented me with a petition calling on this government to withdraw this tax. They say it is unfair and they call upon this government to bring in some fair taxation.