

Routine Proceedings

Pursuant to Standing Order 36, I would be happy to table this petition on behalf of my colleagues on the other side of the House.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present to the House.

I should say I have just come back from a fascinating, extraordinary, and most moving ceremony this morning in Toronto just to be able to present these petitions.

First, these petitions deal with the cutbacks to VIA Rail which the government has carried forward. The petitions, which are signed by approximately 500 Canadians from right across the country, ask the government to reverse its position and to see to it that VIA Rail is in fact modernized and expanded, not cut.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Second, Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which comes from Corner Brook, Newfoundland which deals with children's rights. The petition mentions particularly the sixth of Canadian children living in poverty.

The petitioners pray that the government supports the Private Members' Motion No. 254 calling on the government to negotiate with the provinces to provide a comprehensive bill of rights for children.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a set of petitions which come from all parts of the country with respect to the goods and services tax.

The petitioners reject very strongly as unfair the goods and services tax, and request the House of Commons to reject the goods and services tax and the government to withdraw it. They suggest that instead there should be a system of fair taxation put into effect in the country.

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO GST ON PUBLICATIONS

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to table this petition on behalf of my colleague from Mount Royal, who collected hundreds of signatures in the Dundas area. Mr. Speaker, these people are very concerned about the tax on books and other publications,

and they call on you to prevent the passage of this unfair tax, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to present a petition signed by many people in Ontario.

These people declare themselves to be opposed to the goods and services tax to the point where they call upon Parliament to reject the current proposals for a goods and services tax.

I should make it plain that this petition as written is addressed to Parliament.

Therefore, I think it reasonable to infer that these people, like millions of other Canadians, do not give two hoots if it is the Senate or the House that kills the GST.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition, pursuant to Standing Order 36, which also calls upon Parliament to reject the goods and services tax.

This petition is signed primarily by people in Victoria and in the Victoria area, but also by people who have visited Victoria over the summer from all parts of Canada. I would call on the government to adhere to the petition.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from residents of Ottawa, Nepean and Iroquois Falls in Ontario.

The petitioners note that the government is now trying to tax reading, haircuts, diapers, coffins, and home-heating fuels and they point out that what we need is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, not the massive tax grab that is being proposed here. They say that what we should have is a tax proposal that will bring real tax reform, not this kind of reform.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to the House of Commons petitions from residents of Quebec who are opposed to the goods and services tax, particularly as it applies to books, newspapers, and magazines which have never before been taxed in Canada.

These people humbly pray that the government will eventually come to its senses and do away with the goods and services tax.