

Routine Proceedings

The first one is a timely one. It concerns the closure of the fish plant in Canso. It has the signatures of over 200 persons who are calling upon Parliament to intervene wherever necessary to ensure this fish plant, which is now closed, is re-opened on an urgent basis to provide employment for the more than 700 fish plant workers and 140 trawler workers from this community.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition to present on behalf of the students of St. Francis Xavier University, as well a separate one on behalf of the town and county of Antigonish.

It concerns the closure of the VIA Rail trunk between Sydney and Truro. I would like you to know, Mr. Speaker, that the citizens of this area have not forgotten and are still calling upon Parliament to insist that this government reverse this wrong decision.

ABORTION

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, the third petition bears upon the question of abortion. It is from constituents who join with many other constituents who have signed their names on previous petitions to call upon Parliament to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception onward.

• (1400)

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Finally, Mr. Speaker, the last petition concerns the onerous and unfair goods and services tax.

My constituents are in solidarity with the rest of Canadians who oppose this tax and call upon the government to withdraw this measure urgently.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here signed by a number of people from the Halifax—Dartmouth area. This petition was given to my very distinguished colleague, the hon. member for Dartmouth, who represents the people of his area so well in this House.

These people are asking the Parliament of Canada to reject the federal government's proposed GST, which of course stands for the grief and suffering tax of the Conservative Party. They call upon all of us to oppose vigorously this most unfair measure of the government across the way.

Obviously it is very timely to present this petition today when the government is trying to ram this unfair tax through the House of Commons. I am proudly in solidarity with the people who have signed this petition.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, again it is my privilege to present a petition on behalf of a number of citizens from Kamloops, British Columbia; Chase, British Columbia; and Logan Lake, British Columbia, all of whom point out that the government's goods and services tax is a mean, cruel, brutal, uncaring, undemocratic, regressive tax with a special bias against western Canadians. They ask the government, for those reasons as well as others, to rethink it and abandon it.

I have other petitions but I will leave them for another day. I would like to get on to the opposition day.

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of presenting a petition signed by residents of Windsor who are represented in this House by my hon. and learned colleague, the hon. member for Windsor West, the Leader of the Opposition. I can say he is responsible for gathering the signatures on this petition through his diligent work in his riding of Windsor West.

These Canadians object to the goods and services tax being introduced by this government. To use the adjectives applied by the hon. member for Kamloops would be putting it mildly. These residents are outraged that the government is proceeding with this tax and call upon Parliament to reject it.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally will be indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 240 and 250.