

Routine Proceedings

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier rises on a point of order.

Mr. Gauthier: Because I had to leave the House for a few moments, Madam Speaker, I was not here during the Daily Routine of Business when the time came for committee reports. If the House agreed to revert to that item of our proceedings, perhaps I could table a report of a committee chaired by the Hon. Member for Beauséjour on Bill C-53?

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Does the House consent to revert to the presentation of committee reports?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

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[*English*]

BILL C-53

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the member for Beauséjour, I would like to present the report of the legislative committee on Bill C-53, an act to amend the Criminal Code (arson), with amendments.

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

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[*Translation*]

PETITIONS

WOMEN'S CENTRES

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to table a petition on behalf of the *Ère des centres de femmes du Québec* and of the *Regroupement provincial des maisons d'hébergement et de transition pour femmes victimes de violence conjugale* who, with the help of other groups, have collected 3929 signatures on this

petition. Those people humbly call upon the Parliament to reinstate the level of financing for the Equal Opportunities for Women Program, indexing the amount to the cost of living, and to maintain the support funds for women's groups.

[*English*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I rise to present petitions in the House on behalf of my constituents of the Western Arctic.

One of these petitions is on the effect that the goods and services tax will have on skating. The petitioners consider instruction in skating to be an educational service and, therefore, ask the government to exempt skating educational expenses from the proposed goods and services tax.

This petition is from the community of Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories.

I have a number of other petitions in which the petitioners say that they feel that the goods and services tax will have an onerous burden on the cost of transportation. It will result in a cascading tax because there is already a fuel tax and a transportation tax of 10 per cent.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Madam Speaker, I have a number of petitions so I will not go into each one of them individually.

The first one contains the signatures of 177 people who are calling on Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment, guarantee VIA sufficiency, and support and carry out its mandate to provide passenger service.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt): Madam Speaker, the second petition contains a further 606 names of people who, even though third reading of the bill on the goods and services tax is passed, are still indicating their disagreement with it.

They are asking the government to cease with the proposal that shifts the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax rather than introducing real tax reform.