

Routine Proceedings

Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo, Hamilton, and the surrounding area.

These petitions were collected as a result of a rash of convenience store robberies. It was a group of citizens who co-ordinated their efforts. They have petitioned for a revision to the laws of Canada to replace the Young Offenders Act with an updated Juvenile Delinquent Act with the lowered maximum age of 13 years.

• (1520)

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and indeed a pleasure to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents from various communities in Ontario who are opposed to the government's decision to impose a special tax on reading material. The petitioners point out that this will make Canada virtually the only country in the world that has a tax on reading material, newspapers, magazines, books, and so on. They are asking the government to refrain from this initiative.

Second, Mr. Speaker, on another topic, I have quite a number of petitions signed by people from Kamloops, Logan Lake, Clearwater, Birch Island, and Red Lake, British Columbia, who are all concerned that the government's decision to proceed with the goods and services tax.

The petitioners state that it goes against the better interests of the Canadian economy. They point out that this tax will be inflationary and, consequently, will result in higher interest rates and, therefore, lower disposable income leading to a further worsening of the recession. They are asking the government to back off from proceeding with the 7 per cent goods and services tax.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merriitt): Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present yet another petition against this dastardly tax, the goods and services tax.

I add the names of these people from various points in Ontario to those from across Canada which I have already presented to this House, who ask this government to reject the proposed goods and services tax and cause the government to cease with a proposal which will

shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax, instead of through real tax reform.

CABLE INDUSTRY

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand today, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition with signatures collected over the Labour Day weekend in my riding. It is concerned with the cable industry in Canada.

The petitioners point out that cable companies made an average of 32 per cent profit on fixed assets in 1988, or more than twice the level of the regulated telephone companies and that cable prices increased by 6 per cent annually between 1984 and 1988. The petitioners ask that Parliament adopt Bill C-284 and apply rate-of-return regulations on the cable industry.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting four petitions on behalf of citizens from across Canada who—no surprise—are opposed to the goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out that it is an unfair and regressive tax and that the government is now going to be taxing reading material, haircuts, diapers, and heating oil. They pray that the tax reform system which the government would bring in would be one that taxes people fairly and puts a minimum tax on corporations and those who are able to pay. The petitioners insist that if there is an imposition of a sales tax, such as the government is proposing, that it have broad consensus and that it be reformed in such a way that it does not also become a massive tax grab.

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have the pleasure of rising in the House to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of British Columbia who are wishing to have the federal government rescind the goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out that the Prime Minister and the government has completely lost its mandate at 15 per cent in the polls. There can be absolutely no justification for implementation of such an unpopular, regressive tax.