

Technology. Senator Marsden is ready to try to convene a meeting.

I would like it understood that although the government might not be ready to proceed at this moment, we are prepared to interrupt proceedings to deal with it later this day, to get it into committee if possible.

Senator Doody: I thank the honourable senator. Is it the intention of the Senate to pass this bill in all its stages at this point, or has it to go to committee and come back for third reading immediately or the next day?

Senator Frith: I think it should go to committee, especially since we know that the committee is poised to deal with it very quickly. We are certainly prepared to give it second reading today. I doubt very much that the committee will report the bill with amendment, or in any negative way, and, if I am right, we could then give it third reading today or tomorrow.

Senator Doody: Honourable senators, I am not sufficiently familiar with the bill to have second reading today. I would like the opportunity to prepare some notes. I accept with gratitude the offer to put it through, but I think we will have to wait until tomorrow.

On motion of Senator Doody, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 44(1)(f), bill placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS ON BILL C-62

Hon. Richard J. Stanbury: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 100 residents of the Cobalt region of Ontario who ask that the Senate reject the goods and services tax. The petitioners are from Cobalt, Haileybury, Orillia, and North Cobalt. Nearly all of the 100 signatories are from Cobalt, Ontario. I have the honour to present that petition.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 35 residents of the region of Lac Lacroix, in Quebec, who urge the Senate to reject the bill on the goods and services tax. Most of these people are from Lac Lacroix, but some of them are residents of Saint-Isidore and Hébertville.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 122 residents of the region of Mascouche, in Quebec, who urge the Senate to reject the bill on the goods and services tax. Most of them are from Mascouche, the others are residents of Terrebonne and Rougemont.

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Why not simply table them?

Senator Hébert: Why does Senator Simard interrupt me every time he hears the word petition? You should be thankful I do not read the names of the petitioners.

Senator Simard: That is a slight improvement in your case.

Hon. Paul Lucier: Perhaps you ought to read them.

Senator Hébert: I do not read the names of petitioners, but I want to make sure that the names of the regions I mention are clearly indicated. However if you insist I could read the names.

Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 31 residents of LaSalle, in Quebec, who urge the Senate to reject the bill on the goods and services tax. I am simply making sure these are all residents of LaSalle. And so they are, without exception. Thank you.

[*English*]

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present a number of petitions containing 115 names from a number of large and small towns in southeastern Alberta, from places like Brooks, Duchess, Patricia, Gem, Bassano, Tilley, Medicine Hat, Consort, Drumheller, Cereal, Vauxhall, Hanna, and Sunnybrook, all different towns in southern Alberta.

• (1410)

I have a few names from Big Stone, Alberta. All of these are people who humbly pray that the Senate will stop the introduction of the proposed goods and services tax.

Hon. Eymard Corbin: Honourable senators, I have a petition on the subject of the proposed goods and services tax. This petition contains 27 signatures of people from localities such as Canterbury, Woodstock, and Benton, New Brunswick.

Hon. D.G. Steuart: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present some petitions. They are from various places in Saskatchewan. There are names of people from Regina, Battleford, Ogema, Indian Head, Yellow Grass, and Estevan. I have the honour to present these petitions.

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, I have petitions from various parts of Nova Scotia asking the government to reject the proposed goods and services tax. There are names from Dartmouth, Halifax, Sackville, Lower Sackville, and Annapolis. There are 90 names in total.

I have a further petition from various citizens of the southwestern part of Nova Scotia. There are names of people from Yarmouth, Meteghan, Hebron, Barrington Passage and Pubnico. All of these people reaffirm historic principles embodied in tax-free status for the printed word and they wish to support the amendment to Bill C-62 to ensure the retention of the zero-rate.

Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold: I have the honour to present a petition from 385 residents of Saskatchewan in which they request a tax-free status and zero rating for all printed documents, books and periodicals.

These petitioners come from Regina, Canora, Lumsden, Saskatchewan; Balgonie, Saskatchewan; Wilcox, Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Earl Grey, Saskatchewan; Zedner, Saskatchewan; Nacoma, Saskatchewan and a very wide representation of Saskatchewan cities and towns and villages; Selby, Saskatchewan; Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Regina Beach, Saskatchewan; Greymore, Saskatchewan; Scout Lake, Saskatchewan; Frobisher, Saskatchewan; Winter, Saskatchewan; Craven, Saskatchewan, Estevan, Saskatchewan.

Hon. M. Lorne Bonnell: Where is Estevan?