

Government Orders

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition in conformity with Standing Order 36, signed by 37 residents of the riding of Kingston and the Islands who object most vigorously to the government's proposed goods and services tax and call upon Parliament to reject this nasty and vicious piece of legislation.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of numerous people asking this government to rescind all cuts to funding to the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, to restore full funding and to pledge ongoing funding.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure to present petitions from my riding of Northumberland. These petitions are signed by residents from towns such as Campbellford, Trenton, Port Hope, Cavan and Cobourg. These people are very concerned about the government's proposed goods and services tax legislation. These are not wealthy people with discretionary income funds that they can decide how they want to spend. Many of these signatures represent farmers and small business people who feel that the imposition of the proposed goods and services tax will be their ruination.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to present even more petitions from people of my constituency of Prince Edward—Hastings on the government's unrealistic cuts to VIA Rail, requesting the government to rescind those cuts and to take a more realistic look at passenger travel service in Canada.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR CROPS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mazankowski that Bill C-36, an act to amend the Advance Payments for Crops Act and the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, be now read the second time and referred to a legislative committee; and the amendment of Mr. Foster (p. 4275).

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, when we interrupted the debate to go to Question Period, I was just beginning to point out to the House how long we had waited for the government's initiative on this proposal to take away the interest free portions of cash advances. I was outlining the history of it, how there had been no mention of the government's desire to remove the interest free aspect of cash advances either during the election campaign or in the House. It came as a great surprise during the much delayed budget, and as a result, neither lenders nor borrowers on the farm were aware that this would happen until after their arrangements for the season had been made.

• (1230)

I felt that that was a very good set of circumstances on which to argue that the government should continue with the interest free cash advances. The law exists now. It is there. The only thing stopping interest free cash advances from being in the hands of farmers today is intransigence of the government. It is simply refusing to implement the law that is the law of the land at this moment.

We heard, during the course of this debate and many times before, that the government party, the Conservative Party of Canada, is the party that cares most for farmers and for rural communities. That began to break down a bit during the last election and it lost a lot of its support in rural areas, but it still keeps mouthing the words even though the facts are much to the contrary.