

Routine Proceedings

If there is one area that should be tax-free, it should be educational and reading materials so that our youth and seniors across the land can at least be able to read and further themselves educationally.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present a petition on behalf of the great citizens of Kamloops who are still filled with despair that the government continues to proceed with this very cruel and punitive goods and services tax.

The petitioners point out a whole set of reasons why this is unfair. It discriminates against western Canadians, small businesses, and working people generally, and will cause an increased interest rate. They ask the government to pull the legislation and go back and attempt real tax reform.

On another matter, Mr. Speaker, like some of my other colleagues, I have petitions signed by individuals again from a variety of places in Canada who are distressed that the government sees fit to tax children's story books. I think we are the only country in the world that will actually do that, if the goods and services tax becomes a reality, taxing children's reading.

I think we all appreciate that, particularly at this time of year when we want to buy books and encourage young people to read, we do not want the government imposing a special tax on literature.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to table a petition of over 2,000 signatures from across Ontario.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to develop and adopt a comprehensive agricultural policy for Canada that will ensure the preservation of the Canadian farm family and will guarantee the future of a viable and self-sustaining agricultural industry in Canada.

[*Translation*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have here a petition signed by a good many constituents of the electoral riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, especially residents of Hawkesbury, a

locality which you and all other parliamentarians know well. The people of Hawkesbury in my riding ask the House to urge the government to drop the tax on goods and services, this harmful tax which will hamper the Canadian economy and which will apply to books.

As their spokesman I congratulate the people of Hawkesbury, Alexandria, L'Original, Lancaster, and other Glengarry—Prescott—Russell communities for signing this petition.

[*English*]

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I too, rise to present a petition. I know the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader is a little concerned about the time this is taking today, but I am sure that a lot of his constituents have been sending him petitions signed against the goods and services tax. He does not rise to table those, and neither does the Minister of Transport. I am sorry they do not, because I am sure their constituents would be delighted to have petitions of this kind filed.

For their benefit, I will tell the hon. parliamentary secretary that these petitioners are opposed to the goods and services tax, because it imposes a tax on the printed word. As the hon. member for Kamloops says, it is going to be applied to children's books. It is going to be applied to Bibles and religious works. It is going to be applied to every kind of publication.

These Canadians, like so many millions of others, are opposed to this tax and call upon Parliament to reject it.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Boudria: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The parliamentary secretary will know that I have raised with him, both privately and in the House, on a number of occasions the fact that one question which has been on