

• (1510)

#### TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Madam Speaker, I would like to present three petitions under Standing Order 36 in which the petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the report of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas.

The petitioners are residents of my riding of Cochrane—Superior, and are from the towns of Nakina, Geraldton, Terrace Bay and Manitouwadge.

On behalf of the 303 petitioners who rely on this isolation tax benefit, I must reiterate the importance of this tax deduction to northern communities. On the average, food and gasoline prices are 25 per cent higher than in any heavily populated area of Canada.

This tax benefit is the only compensation these people have. It should not be taken away. The government is presently studying the report. It is imperative that it rejects the recommendation presented in that report.

#### SOCIAL PROGRAMS

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to present two petitions today signed by residents of the province of Newfoundland.

The first petition concerns the cuts that the government has proposed to the unemployment insurance scheme in Canada. It recites the promises made during the last election campaign in which the government promised that it would not change Canada's social programs, particularly the unemployment insurance program.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject changes in the program and to propose more meaningful reforms to concentrate on labour force development strategy, a full employment strategy and a regional development policy, all of which have been abandoned by this government through its proposals in Bill C-21. The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject these proposals.

I am sure that had the people had a petition updated, they would have asked us to pass Bill S-17 yesterday instead of having it defeated by this cold-hearted government.

#### *Point of Order*

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, the second petition deals with the goods and services tax.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the goods and services tax, which is the thirty-second unfair tax imposed by this government since it took office in 1984. It represents an absolute grab of money from Canadian taxpayers' pockets.

These taxpayers have had enough of these Tory taxes and call upon Parliament to reject this bill.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Madam Speaker, I have several petitions to present here today pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The first petition is signed by hundreds of Haligonians who asked that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all areas of federal jurisdiction.

#### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Madam Speaker, the other petition on which I have in excess of 4,000 names is from women across the country who are asking that unnecessary legal restrictions which abrogate the reproductive rights of women and encourage disrespect for the law be removed.

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#### POINT OF ORDER

#### ACCEPTABILITY OF MOTION

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to ask for a ruling on the acceptability of the motion on today's Notice Paper under the name of the Minister of Justice.

Specifically, I ask you to consider, Mr. Speaker, whether the motion which urges other legislative bodies to follow a certain course of action is properly in order, in light of the parliamentary convention restricting debate on matters before the other House.

Our House operates on a tradition, a philosophy which was developed over centuries in the British Parliament. From them we have inherited a wisdom of self-restraint in matters which should not properly be discussed in this House. For example, we restrain ourselves from rehashing questions that are already decided, from making