

## THE SENATE

Friday, April 2, 1993

The Senate met at 9 a.m., the Speaker *pro tempore* in the Chair.

Prayers.

[Translation]

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

##### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

**Hon. Jacques Hébert:** Honourable senators —

**Senator Lavoie-Roux:** We would not miss that.

**Senator Hébert:** Senator Lavoie-Roux, I know you would not miss that, so I do not want to disappoint you —

Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 140 citizens of Quebec — the province of Senator Lavoie-Roux — who oppose the goods and services tax.

These petitions come mainly from Rougemont, St-Paul, St-Césaire, Ange-Gardien, Esplanade, Montréal, St-Ambroise, Pierrefonds and Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

All these are cities and towns that Senator Lavoie-Roux knows well!

If the government will not hear those citizens, they will make themselves heard loud and clear on election day, which has been delayed for too long!

[English]

### THE GOVERNMENT

#### RECORD OF ADMINISTRATION FROM 1984 TO 1993— NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Leave having been given to revert to Notices of Inquiries:

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I give notice that on Tuesday, April 6, 1993, I will call the attention of the Senate to the disastrous record of the Mulroney administration, beginning in 1984 when it first broke faith with the Canadian people, to 1993 when the Prime Minister announced his resignation.

### QUESTION PERIOD

#### QUEBEC

##### MOVEMENT FOR SOVEREIGNTY— SUPPORT BY GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

**Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I see that the Leader of the Government has arrived. I am not objecting to the fact that he is late; I was afraid that we might not have an opportunity to question him.

My question refers to an article in the *Globe and Mail* with the headline “Parizeau buoyed by U.S. talks.” The problem is that at the very end of the article, it states:

And after a private meeting last week with French President François Mitterrand in Paris, Mr. Parizeau says that France has begun exploring ways to “actively support” Quebec’s march toward sovereignty.

Perhaps the minister could tell us whether he has any information on that situation. Has the Department of External Affairs taken note that apparently the French government is actively supporting Quebec’s march toward sovereignty? Has the Canadian ambassador to Paris spoken to the French government?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, those are valid questions if there is any foundation to the news article and to the statement attributed to Mr. Parizeau. However, all I can say for now is that the record of President Mitterrand, in all of the time he has been in office, has been one of unequivocal support for Canada, and total determination to respect the right of Canadians to make their own decisions on the matters that concern us. There has never been, throughout the time that President Mitterrand has been in office, the slightest misunderstanding between our two governments or countries on those matters.

**Senator Molgat:** I am pleased to get that statement from the minister. Could you enquire of the department to see whether or not Mr. Parizeau’s statements are correct?

While you are doing that, could you also enquire whether there is any change in the views of the American administration? Mr. Parizeau also interprets that there is a clear sign that the Americans view Quebec sovereignty with a high degree of probability, and indeed have changed their attitude, because now, apparently, representatives of various government departments, the State Department in particular, have been attending his dinners, something they did not do in the past. Does that indicate a change in the position of the American government?