

1992, even though the Senate may then be sitting, and that rule 96 (4) be suspended in relation thereto.

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NOTICE OF MOTION TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE TO STUDY CBC/NFB FILM PRESENTATION

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, I give notice that tomorrow, Wednesday, March 18, 1992, I will move:

That the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology be authorized to examine the contents of the CBC/NFB series, "The Valour and the Horror", and report upon the said production to determine the authenticity of the three-part series, namely, "Savage Christmas: Hong Kong 1941", "Death by Moonlight: Bomber Command," and "In Desperate Battle: Normandy 1944", because of the mounting unfavorable reaction of the said production.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, you will be glad to know that during our break the citizens of Canada did not forget their opposition to the iniquitous GST and have been sending in petitions that I now have the honour to present. They are all here in the file, all signed in handwriting by our fellow citizens. The summary is as follows:

First, the petitions are headed as previously . . .

[*Translation*]

—that the new universal federal tax of 7 per cent on goods and services passed by the Conservative government will create major, unfair and inhuman difficulties for Canadians and, for these reasons, etc. we humbly call upon senators and members of the House of Commons, who are the true representatives of the people, to do everything they can to oppose this new goods and services tax, and we demand that an election be called immediately.

[*English*]

From Quebec, 27 petitions with a total of 548 names; from Ontario, 11 petitions with a total of 248 names; and from New Brunswick, two petitions with a total of 39 names.

In Quebec, the petitions come from Barrante, Jonquière, Lac Mégantic, Laval, Longueuil, Montreal, Napierville, Portneuf, Rouyn, St-Isidore, St-Léonard, Sennetere, Sherbrooke, and Val d'Or; in Ontario, they come from Brampton, Etobicoke, Kitchener, Mississauga, North York, Niagara Falls, Oakville, Rexdale, Stoney Creek and Toronto; and in New Brunswick, they come from Miscou, Notre-Dame, Petit-Rocher, St-Léolin and Shippagan.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jacques Hébert:** Honourable senators, I too have the honour and the privilege to present petitions signed by 180 citizens of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia who oppose the

[Senator Stewart.]

goods and services tax, especially as it applies to books, newspapers and magazines. They point out that traditionally, books and periodicals have always been exempt from tax in Canada, at least since Confederation, if not from time immemorial. This exemption was based on the fact that—

[*English*]

. . . the uninhibited dissemination of the printed word, as a cornerstone of democracy, culture, education and a literate and productive society, will be negatively affected by GST application.

[*Translation*]

That is why they opposed it and still oppose it. These petitions come mainly from Stephenville and Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

There are also other petitions signed by 301 citizens of British Columbia who oppose the goods and services tax, especially on books and periodicals. These petitions come mainly from Penticton, Oliver, Delta and Surrey.

## QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

### THE ECONOMY

#### EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CHILD BENEFITS

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I have two questions for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. The first relates partly to some legislation before us. Yesterday Statistics Canada confirmed that Tory times are tough times. In 1981 there was but one food bank in the entire country. There are now 292. In 1990 one of every nine children in Canada received emergency assistance from a food bank, not just once but on average 3.5 times a year. In 1991, 2 million Canadians, including 700,000 children, were expected to receive aid from food banks.

I want to know if the government is not concerned about those statistics. If it is, why is it refusing to withdraw Bill C-32, which extends the cap on the Canada Assistance Plan? Why has it deindexed family allowance payments? Why has it imposed a brand of new tax, the GST, on children's clothing and medicines? And, lastly, why, instead of using the money for children living in abject poverty, is it spending \$500,000 on an advertising campaign, a propaganda campaign, about its proposed child benefit program?

• (1420)

We have the government fattening up on advertising accounts while hundreds of thousands of children trudge to food banks for basic nourishment.

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, with regard to the changes announced in the budget with respect to child benefits, as I pointed out in my