

*Routine Proceedings*

of the allied forces, and also to the fact that merchant mariners placed themselves under great risk in carrying out their duties. Many lost lives and many were seriously injured.

They would like Parliament to designate Canada's merchant mariners as veterans of World War II, extending to them all the benefits accorded to the veterans of the regular forces.

## TAXATION

**Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** I also have a petition from several hundred people across Canada mentioning that the Government of Canada has not taken due consideration for aboriginal immunity from taxes under the aboriginal rights and treaty rights in the goods and services tax legislation. They are calling on the Government of Canada to revise the legislation and the regulations so that it respects the tax immunity of aboriginal people based on their aboriginal or treaty rights, whether they live on or off reserve.

## NORTH THOMPSON RIVER

**Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** Finally, I have a petition from people who are concerned about the development of Multinational Resources Corporation which intends to dam the North Thompson River near Valemount and to divert that water to the southern California area. They urge the Government of Canada to state categorically that it will not permit our fresh water rivers to be dammed and diverted into the United States and to state that all our Canadian rivers are not for sale.

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition under Standing Order 36 in regard to a very important issue respecting the diversion of water in Canada. It is signed by a number of residents of British Columbia, in particular the Okanagan.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada to state categorically that it will not permit our freshwater rivers to be dammed and diverted into the U.S.A. and to state that our Canadian rivers are not for sale.

**Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased, pursuant to Standing Order

36, to present a petition from a number of my constituents' neighbours in south central British Columbia.

It seems appropriate as the MP for Kootenay West—Revelstoke, which as I think without a doubt is the most dammed constituency in Canada, that we should have considerable sympathy and our petitioners do for the issue of concern that has been mentioned earlier regarding Multinational Resources announcement of an intention to dam the North Thompson River at Valemount.

The petitioners urge the Government of Canada to state categorically that it will not permit our freshwater rivers to be dammed and diverted into the U.S.A. and to state that our Canadian rivers are not for sale.

**Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East):** Mr. Speaker, yes, I have a petition to present that has been certified correct. The petition duly states that the Multinational Resources Company has announced the intention to dam the North Thompson at Valemount to divert water to sell in San Diego, California, and other areas.

The petitioners are urging the Government of Canada to state categorically that it will not permit our freshwater rivers to be dammed and diverted to the U.S.A. and to state that our Canadian rivers are not for sale.

As a member for Kootenay East who has seen the devastation of the Columbia River Treaty, my residents are concerned about this matter.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before I recognize the hon. member for Kamloops on a point of order, I believe that the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier would like to revert to presenting reports from committee.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, with the patience of the House, I would like to revert to presenting reports from committees.

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

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## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

## SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the second report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. This report deals with the disband-