

Routine Proceedings

These petitioners are calling on the government to eliminate the reductions in budget and service and improve the Vancouver Island version of VIA Rail.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I also have two petitions relating to the goods and services tax from various points in my constituency on Vancouver Island in which the petitioners call on the government to do away with the goods and services tax and to bring in a tax which is more fair in its application rather than taxing the poor and consumers more heavily than the rich.

That petition is signed by approximately 150 to 200 people, adding to the thousands of petitions I have presented in the past on this issue.

FORESTRY

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a third petition which relates to the forest resource development agreement that is in danger of being scuttled by this government and yet has provided needed forest restoration in British Columbia and also needed jobs in the forest industry in British Columbia, plus the prospect of jobs in the forest industry in British Columbia's future by replanting our forests and making sure that we have a thriving stand and a solid working forest in that province.

NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a final petition that calls on the government to set up a nuclear free zone in British Columbia that would allow no ship carrying nuclear weapons to be given access to our ports and waterways, that the designation include passages through our waters en route to Nanose Bay and in all the waters around the Canadian Forces maritime experimental and test ranges near Nanose Bay, British Columbia, and that all governments be required to provide, in advance of their arrival, assurance that ships visiting our waters carry no nuclear weapons and have no nuclear reactors on board.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have no record of this petition being certified, but I am sure it would be supported unanimously by this House.

TAXATION

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition certified by the Clerk of Petitions pursuant to Standing Order 36. It is my pleasure and duty to table this petition in the House which is signed by residents of my constituency, particularly from the communities of Edam, Saskatchewan and Big River, Saskatchewan, who attended meetings that I held in those communities.

The petitioners note that the government has not addressed the unfair taxation system currently in place which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax while forcing lower and middle-income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden.

The petition calls on Parliament to reject the current proposals for the goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax for wealthy individuals and corporations.

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, question No. 241 will be answered today.

[Text]

PURCHASE OF AUTOMOBILES FOR THE OPEN SKIES
CONFERENCEQuestion No. 241—**Mrs. Gaffney:**

Did the government purchase any automobiles for the Open Skies Conference it hosted in February of 1990 and, if so (a) what number (b) at what cost (c) what will the government be doing with the automobiles now that the Conference is over (d) if the government intends to sell the automobiles (i) to what persons (ii) in what locations (iii) on what dates (iv) at what cost will they be sold?

Hon. Paul Wyatt Dick (Minister of Supply and Services): No automobiles were purchased for the Open Skies Conference.

However, sixty-five Chevrolet Lumina sedans and fifteen Chevrolet vans were leased from General Motors of Canada Limited for the total sum of \$1.00. All vehicles will be returned to General Motors for their inventory.