

Routine Proceedings

security and family allowance benefits in part or in their entirety, depending on the recipient's income.

All these people from Manitoba have joined together in calling upon Parliament and the government to change these measures suggested by the government, and to preserve the principle of universality in Canadian social policy.

RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN

Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege to table 13 more petitions in the House containing the names of 1,891 residents of Guelph, Chatham, Wallaceburg, Blenheim, Tilbury, Ridgeway and Thamesville, Ontario, who strongly believe in the right to life of the unborn.

The petitioners ask Parliament to legislate a law to protect life from conception, a law which seeks to save the life of both mother and child. I strongly support the petitioners' position.

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which contains the names of many people from my riding who are concerned that there is no legislation in Canada to define and protect the life of the unborn child, and who now call upon Parliament to enact legislation which will effectively protect the life of the preborn child without distinction as to the stage of development.

* * *

[*Translation*]

OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, today it is again my duty to table 20 petitions signed by residents of the riding of Ottawa—Vanier in which petitioners wish to express their dissatisfaction with the government's proposal to put a 9 per cent tax on goods and services.

Your petitioners point out that the Conservative Government has saddled Canadian taxpayers with at least 31 taxes or tax increases since it came to power in 1984; that it raised the existing sales tax on manufactured goods from 9 per cent in 1984 to 13.5 per cent; that it now wants to introduce a 9 per cent sales tax on goods and services, a tax that will be hidden and will apply to practically everything; that this new universal tax on goods and services will cause financial problems for

small business; that it will expose Canadians to a very real possibility of higher inflation, higher interest rates and higher unemployment.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the goods and services tax.

[*English*]

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of a number of petitioners from Saskatoon and area who point out that the proposed goods and services tax is an unfair form of taxation because it is so regressive. The petitioners call upon the government to put in a real tax reform and reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions to present today. The first is signed by 352 residents primarily of the city of Thunder Bay and adjoining area, and also from a number of areas in British Columbia, certified by the Clerk of Petitions, with regard to the future of VIA Rail.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger service.

I am sure, had these been signed after the transport committee tabled its report, the petitioners would agree with the recommendations in that report.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by 257 residents in the city of Thunder Bay and adjoining areas regarding the proposed goods and services tax. They point out that the government is now trying to tax reading, haircuts, diapers, coffins and home heating fuels. They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 750 residents of my riding who live along the VIA Rail right of way. They call on Parliament