

*Routine Proceedings*

on the intention of the Prime Minister, books. They call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax. They want reform of the tax system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to submit to you a petition that I have here in my hands, from a number of Canadians who are very angry. They are angry about the goods and services tax and they have said so in this petition to which they have affixed their names.

Among the things which they are angry about, as I read this petition, is that they are unhappy about the goods and services tax touching such areas as haircuts, fast foods, piano lessons, and even consumer loans which they take out to pay the taxes. But they are angry too because, last night, the Prime Minister indicated that he might be fudging with the tax and they did not have a chance to put that "fudging" stuff into this petition.

In consequence, I submit this petition in anticipation that there will be more to come, because of the fudging last night by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I too have the honour of presenting a petition on behalf of a number of constituents from Kamloops, British Columbia, who point out their concern that the government, apparently up until last night at least, was planning to tax reading material.

This, of course, would include young children's story books. Parents sit with their children in the evenings and attempt to teach them reading and listening skills. The government was going to tax this but we have heard that the Prime Minister may be changing his mind on this and we certainly hope that he does. The petitioners are asking that the whole tax be chucked out. That is on the reading materials, Mr. Speaker, and I have a petition on another matter.

• (1110)

Mr. Speaker, another group of petitioners from western Canada point out a whole list of concerns and why they oppose the government's decision to proceed with the unpopular goods and services tax.

They point out that while 85 per cent of Canadians do not want this tax because it will be inflationary and consequently encourage a further increase in interest rates. They ask the government to back off from imposing this very punitive, cruel tax on the people of Canada.

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**INTERPARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION****REPORT OF 36TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN HARARE**

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the House to revert to Reports from Interparliamentary Delegations.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is there unanimous consent to revert to Presenting Reports from Inter-parliamentary Delegations?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Erie.

[*English*]

**Mr. Fretz:** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 34(1), I have the honour to present to the House in both official languages the report of the official parliamentary delegation which participated in the 36th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Harare, September 14 through September 22, 1990.

During the time of that conference, the Canadian delegation was well represented in the plenary and committee sessions on important topics such as South Africa and its problems, one of the important issues that was dealt with during that conference.

I just want to inform all members of the House on all sides that we can be proud of all the members who participated in the debates.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Reverting to petitions. The hon. member for Scarborough Centre.