

Routine Proceedings

to qualify for the whole year of unemployment insurance.

Given all the other factors, the terrible success rate of the fishery of Newfoundland this year, the impending gloom and doom of the goods and services tax, and other economic downturns, these constituents are very concerned about this issue.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to introduce immediately the variable entrance requirement without delay so, that they can have their 10 weeks and get on with their unemployment insurance.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by hundreds of residents of my constituency of Burnaby—Kingsway.

They point out that the proposed goods and services tax of the Minister of Finance is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for taxpayers' ability to pay.

They point out that the government has not yet addressed the unfair taxation system which places an unreasonable burden on lower and middle income taxpayers.

Therefore they call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax, to reform the taxation system so there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, and to ensure that, if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, it must not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab.

Finally, they call upon the government to cease its proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax and to bring in real and effective tax reform.

• (1110)

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a number of petitions to present today from people in Canada.

The first one is an anti-GST petition signed by people from communities of Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids and The Pas, Manitoba, from my constituency. They are especial-

ly concerned with the effect that the GST will have in being charged on educational expenses and figure skating, for example. They call on the Parliament of Canada to reject the GST and would ask the government to make sure that the GST is not implemented.

In addition, I have a petition from people in the communities of Snow Lake, Thompson, Matheson Island and Easterville who also call upon the government to make sure that the GST is not implemented. They believe that it is a regressive tax and that it will hurt people. It is a tax on consumption and it is not real tax reform. They believe it is not in the best interests of Canadians.

From other parts of Canada, Corner Brook, Pasadena, Gallants, Gillams, Meadows, Cox's Cove, Benoit's Cove and Red Bay, over 395 people have signed petitions against the goods and services tax. They believe it is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians and will hit them not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment.

Also on the topic of the GST there are 538 names from the communities of Corner Brook, St. John's, Deer Lake, Benoit's Cove, Halifax and Summerside, saying that they reject the goods and services tax. They also believe that it would be an unfair hardship on low and middle income Canadians. They believe that the imposition of this tax will create an onerous burden on small businesses. The undersigned humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition which will be of special interest to the member for Peace River and, if he were in the House, it would be of interest to the member for Athabasca yet again to hear me present a petition on the topic of northern tax benefits. This is signed by people from my riding and it joins people from other parts of Canada, especially northern Alberta, who have rejected the task force report on northern and isolated areas.

They believe that the report issued on October 27 of last year fails to address the realities of the high cost of living in northern areas across Canada. The undersigned call upon Parliament to reject the recommendations of the report and develop a fair and equitable tax benefit