

Routine Proceedings

of stopping the procedure of the day in terms of dealing with the orders of the day.

I seek unanimous consent to move this motion without debate and hopefully have it passed.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for Kamloops for making the situation completely clear.

The position that the House is in now is that on the proposition put forward by the Hon. Member for Kamloops the question is: Is there consent? I will hear the minister on that narrow point.

Mr. Charest: Mr. Speaker, to respond to my hon. colleague on the question of what usually constitutes an issue of consent, I think the House knows there is consent to matters that refer to procedures within the House and things that come under the jurisdiction of the House. We may find as we look at the motion before us now that it refers not to something that relates directly to the day-to-day operations of the House for which there is, as my hon. colleague points out correctly, many instances when there is co-operation and consent. For that reason, as I have mentioned before, because there may be other procedures that normally would be followed I do not think you will find the government would be willing to go along with my hon. colleague's proposal.

Mr. Speaker: The situation now is that the Hon. Member for Kamloops has put forward a motion and is asking the consent of the House to send a message to the Senate with respect to bringing a senator before the bar of this House. That would, if it was to pass today, require consent. The government has indicated that it is not prepared to give consent. I point out to the Hon. Member from Kamloops that that of course does not in any way impede the hon. member from bringing the matter in another way on another day.

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PETITIONS**PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I have the duty to table several petitions relating to the Conservative government's proposal to impose upon Canadians a goods and services tax starting January 1, 1991.

These petitioners, and there are several hundred, maintain that this new imposition of additional taxes after having been subjected to 31 new taxes and tax increases since this government took office in 1984 would be really unjust and unfair to many Canadians and would put a severe hardship on low and middle-income Canadians. Also, it would impose on small business an onerous burden in administrative costs. To the objective that they would like to reach with this government to withdraw this proposal, the petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

• (1120)

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here signed by a large number of people from the Pembroke, Petawawa, Deep River, and the Cobden area. They are very concerned about the 9 per cent goods and services tax that this government is planning to lay on the people of Canada.

They point out that there have already been 31 new tax increases since this government took power in 1984. They also recognize that the Conservative Government has increased the manufacturers' sales tax from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent in recent years.

They feel that this 9 per cent goods and services tax which will be levied on all goods will be very detrimental to average and low-income Canadians out there. They request that the government withdraw this plan, go back to the drawing-board and come up with a tax that is fair to all Canadians.

The petitioners are absolutely opposed to any 9 per cent goods and services tax because of its unfairness and also because of the inability to apply it fairly.

VIA RAIL

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to table a petition that has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions. I present this petition on behalf of the residents of Thunder Bay, Ontario, who call upon the Government of Canada not to cancel in whole or in part passenger rail services in Canada.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thrilled): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions today. It is particularly apropos that the Minister of Employment and Immigration be here because I