

*Routine Proceedings*

ern tax benefit system. It does not encourage settlement in the North and offers no incentive to develop northern resources.

[English]

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have five petitions today. This is among the hundreds that I have tabled over the last few months dealing with this very unacceptable and intolerable GST, the government's proposal to impose the goods and services tax on all goods and services that Canadians purchase, starting in January 1991.

These petitioners say that the federal government's imposition of this 7 per cent sales tax will virtually apply to everything, will be unfair to low and middle income Canadians and will create an onerous burden on small businesses.

The people who have signed this petition strongly oppose this goods and services tax which is in their opinion an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians. They will be hit not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject this proposed goods and services tax.

[Translation]

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from students in my riding at the University of Ottawa. It is a petition I have tabled in the House many times before, in which your petitioners beg the House of Commons to do something for postsecondary education and improve the quality of and access to our universities, colleges and educational institutions for Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is rather long, but basically it argues in favour of a federal-provincial conference between the federal government and the provinces that would clearly establish the financial responsibilities of both levels of government with respect to postsecondary education and would end the present shameful neglect of postsecondary education in this country.

[English]

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions to present. One is from 1,000 residents of Canada who point out that, ever since Confederation, the Government of Canada has applied a zero rate of tax to magazines, books and newspapers which it now proposes to include in the goods and services tax.

They also point out that uninhibited dissemination of the printed word as a cornerstone of democracy, culture, education and a literate and productive society will be negatively affected by the GST application. Therefore they ask Parliament to reaffirm the historic principles embodied in free tax status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in the GST legislation and regulations for the printed word.

## LOW-LEVEL FLIGHTS

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition from 200 Canadians who join with the Assembly of First Nations, the Innu of Labrador and other aboriginal peoples of northern Canada in opposing use of their lands for NATO and NORAD attack training.

They ask this Parliament to oppose the establishment of NATO operations in Canada, especially at Goose Bay, and to redirect funding used for this toward enabling Canada's aboriginal peoples to regain control of their lands and their livelihood and for promoting sustainable development for all Canadians.

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I have another petition from 140 Canadians concerning VIA Rail who oppose the reduction or elimination of VIA Rail service.

They ask Parliament to modernize the existing equipment so that VIA Rail can provide a world-class service to Canadians and to build a high speed passenger train between Montreal and Windsor.

## CANSO FISH PLANT

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to table five separate petitions.