

Your committee conducted its usual thorough review of these Supplementary Estimates. Questions were addressed by the members to the witnesses on a variety of subjects, including: The costs of the constitutional referendum in October, 1992; the loan guarantees paid by the government to private sector lenders under the former Enterprise Development and Industrial and Regional Development Programs, in particular the \$81 million paid out so far with respect to the closure of the Westray coal mine of Curragh Inc.; the forgiveness of loans of \$55 million to Egypt and \$24.6 million to EXPRO Chemical Products, an ammunition manufacturer and a former Crown corporation that has experienced financial difficulties; United Nations peacekeeping operations; transfer payments from the federal government to the provinces with respect to stabilization, health and post-secondary education; and the history of freezes and rollbacks since January, 1985 in the sessional and expense allowances of ministers and members of Parliament.

With respect to the federal-provincial transfers, where the increases in the Supplementary Estimates are substantial, the officials informed the committee that, since the Established Programs Financing formula is based on provincial population and the tax points component of the transfer has declined because of reduced economic activity, the cash portion, which appears in the Estimates, had to be correspondingly increased.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and report adopted.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have the honour to present the following petitions signed by 120 citizens of the province of Quebec who object to the goods and services tax.

These petitions come mostly from Esplanade, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, La Prairie, Cantley, Hull, St-Césaire and Montreal.

I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 150 citizens of the province of British-Columbia who object to the goods and services tax.

These petitions come mostly from Vancouver, Delta, Penticton, Port Moody, Richmond and Victoria.

There is a total of 270 signatures on the petitions presented today. These petitioners object to the GST and more specifically to its application to books and periodicals, contrary to what is done in most civilized countries.

[Senator Olson]

Fortunately, the Senate will have the opportunity to correct that situation by passing Bill S-14 in the near future.

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY BILL

MESSAGE FROM COMMONS

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform the Senate that a message has been received from the House of Commons which reads as follows:

HOUSE OF COMMONS CANADA

Monday, March 29, 1993

AMENDMENTS made by the House of Commons to Bill S-8, passed by the Senate, entitled: "An Act to regulate the manufacture and importation of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment to reduce the risk of death, injury and damage to property and the environment":

Clause 7

Strike out lines 21 to 33, on page 5, and substitute the following therefor:

"(2) Except as otherwise provided by the regulations, a vehicle that has been sold at the retail level in the United States and that fails to satisfy an applicable requirement of section 5 or 6 may be imported into Canada notwithstanding that section if the person importing the vehicle makes a declaration in the prescribed form and manner that, before the vehicle is presented for registration under the laws of a province, the vehicle

(a) will be made to conform to that requirement; and

(b) will be certified in the prescribed form and manner to so conform by such person as may be designated by the regulations."

Add immediately after line 44 on page 5, the following:

"(4) A vehicle that is imported into Canada must conform to the standard prescribed for the class of equivalent non-imported vehicle, or made to conform to this standard prior to the presentation for registration under the laws of a province."

ATTEST

Robert Marleau
Clerk of the House of Commons