

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 23, 1990

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government responses to 16 petitions.

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

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I rise today, at the beginning of this continuing session, to present petitions again dealing with the GST, the goods and services tax, which is rejected by most Canadians.

• (1110)

These petitioners would like to tell the House of Commons how strongly they feel about this imposition of an additional tax on goods and services. This tax will be hidden from Canadians and it will be applied to virtually everything they buy.

They say that the imposition of this new goods and services tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle income Canadians, that the imposition of the tax will create an onerous burden on small business. This is an unprecedented tax grab from the pockets of Canadians that will hit them not only with higher taxes but with higher inflation, higher interest and higher unemployment.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject this proposed goods and services tax at 7 per cent or at any percentage.

BILL C-21

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition signed by 70 people in the towns of Bonavista, Elliston, Melrose, Middle Catalina, Catalina and Port Union.

These people are very concerned about Bill C-21. Specifically in their case it is taking \$1.3 billion from the unemployment insurance business and taking it away from job development strategy programs which in fact provide infrastructure for the communities. As well there is the \$2.9 billion the government is taking out. It really is getting out of the unemployment insurance business altogether.

They are concerned about the weeks that they will have for benefits. They are concerned about what is estimated to be the \$112 million that will be taken out next year if this bill goes through.

The petitioners humbly pray that Bill C-21 will be withdrawn.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I would also like to present a number of petitions today concerning the proposed goods and services tax, which should appropriately be called the grief and suffering tax.

This petition is signed by a number of citizens of the great community of Windsor, so ably represented in the House of Commons by my distinguished colleague, the hon. member for Windsor West.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition to present under Standing Order 36 on the goods and services tax, signed by a number of people in the country.