

*Routine Proceedings*

and Citizenship, a decision which will have a disastrous impact on the quality of teaching in our heritage language schools.

[English]

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Pursuant to Standing Order 36, I wish to present a petition signed by several members of the Ottawa area asking that Parliament reaffirm the historic principles embodied in the tax-free status for the printed word by retaining the zero rate in GST legislation and regulations.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

**Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition in proper form. It is a little different perhaps than some other petitions in that it is in reference to volunteer fire departments, their members and the income tax receipts they are allowed, presumably to help them remain volunteer firemen. They do not get paid in that endeavour. According to section 61(b)(viii) of the Income Tax Act they are allowed to issue them with a receipt but the fact is that the receipt was \$300. In 1980-81 it was raised to \$500 and it has not been touched since. They petition the government to review that income tax procedure to allow volunteer fire departments to be issued with an income tax receipt, something that is appropriate to today's times. They often wear their own clothing. They do not go and pick up a uniform. That is the only pay that they get. In some small communities throughout this country volunteer fire departments are very often the service clubs in those villages and communities.

I would like the government to consider this seriously. I am not sure what it does with all these petitioners but I hope it will give this one some priority.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, I am rising on behalf of residents of Mount Pearl, Conception Bay and St. John's, Newfoundland, who are petitioning the government to re-examine the decision to impose the GST on reading material in Canada. It is a violation of the concept of freedom of

speech to tax the written word, to tax the ability of people to communicate with each other.

The petitioners call upon the government and all members of the cabinet, including the member for St. John's West, and the parliamentary secretary, the member for St. John's East, to find their voices to speak out against this ungodly tax on reading material and against books.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that this would be in order in any jurisdiction, the Newfoundland legislature, here in Ottawa or even in Ontario where they may sometimes do things differently, I do not know. Perhaps the member from Hamilton can tell us.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Mr. Speaker, this is the second time today an hon. member of this House has made a disparaging remark about members from Ontario. Even though I have the greatest amount of respect for my friend and colleague and former rat packer, even though I have the greatest amount of respect for him, there comes a time when members from Ontario have to stand their ground.

Another member earlier made a comment about my friend, the member for Hamilton East. Even though at times she might annoy different members in this House, she has every right to sit in this House. Even though she has the misfortune of coming from Hamilton, it is not to suggest that all people of Ontario have the same inadequacies as my friend and colleague.

I would ask the member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte to apologize to the people of Ontario.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I was merely reflecting upon a comment by the Speaker earlier when the Speaker said in response to a point of order that the member in question was not in the Ontario legislature now. I wanted to be absolutely sure in presenting my petition that whatever jurisdiction we were in, that the petition be received and that the word of the people of Canada be heard. I happen to believe that whether we are in the Ontario legislature, the Newfoundland legislature or the Canadian legislature, it is important that nothing be done to impede the ability of the people of Canada through their representatives to be heard.