

Honourable senators, I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 502 residents of Saskatchewan who object to the goods and services tax. Most of these petitions are from Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Vibank, Moose Jaw and Regina.

Honourable senators, I also have the honour to present petitions signed by 531 residents of Alberta who object to the goods and services tax. Most of these petitions are from Edmonton, Calgary, Fairview, Drayton Valley, St. Albert and Airdree.

Honourable senators, I also have the honour to present petitions by 458 residents of Quebec who object to the goods and services tax. Most of these petitions are from Longueuil, Lévis, Saint-Lambert, Granby, Île-Perrot, Charlesbourg, Montreal, Sainte-Hyacinthe, Sainte-Thérèse, Sainte-Sophie and Saint-Dominique.

Finally, honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions signed by 100 residents of New Brunswick who object to the goods and services tax. Most of these petitions are from Burnsville, Bertrand, Trudel, Pokemouche, Packerville, Caraquet and Maltenpeck.

I can see many honourable senators opposite thought that Canadians, not being prone to protest, would quickly get used to the GST. They certainly must be surprised to see that two years after that historic debate, thousands of Canadians keep signing petitions objecting to the GST. Senator Simard obviously does not want to listen to the voice of the people. As I said before, to Senator Murray, not a week goes by without my receiving petitions, and those I just tabled were signed by 2,315 petitioners. That should impress a government that is obsessed by figures, including opinion poll results.

**Hon. Jean-Marie Simard:** Would Senator Hébert entertain a question?

**Senator Hébert:** Of course, Senator Simard.

**Senator Simard:** I am sure Senator Hébert has made a detailed study of these petitions, so I would like to know whether he can confirm that the protesting parties whose names appear on these petitions, have no suggestions for an alternative source of revenue, just like the Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Chrétien.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order!

**The Acting Speaker:** Honourable senators, I must call the senator to order because we have not reached question period yet.

[English]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

**Hon. Jack Marshall:** Honourable senators, I have the honour to present petitions from the Royal Canadian Air Force Prisoners of War Association, Ottawa Branch, under the chairmanship of A.J. Little. It contains another 288 signatures in [Senator Hébert.]

addition to those I have tabled in the last couple of sittings. These petitions are from British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Nova Scotia. The petitions read as follows:

WHEREFORE the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to support the activities of the Senate Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs in examining the authenticity of the aforementioned series of films.

The petitions have to do with the series of films: *Savage Christmas: Hong Kong 1941*; *Death by Moonlight: Bomber Command*; and *In Desperate Battle: Normandy 1944*.

I note with interest that two of the signatures include the former Chief of the General Staff, Ramsey Withers, and former prominent military naval leader, Admiral Mainguy.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### AGRICULTURE

#### WESTERN GRAIN CROP—ASSESSMENT OF STORM DAMAGE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. H.A. Olson:** Honourable senators, I wish to ask the Leader of the Government if any action has been initiated to assess the damage that was done to the grain crop in Western Canada from the snow storm in August, and whether or not the government has anyone in the field to assess how severe the damage was?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, I am sure that has been done by the minister in the Department of Agriculture, but I would have to ask for a report from my colleague on that matter.

**Senator Olson:** If the preliminary indication is that the damage is as severe as some people believe it is—that is, that the value of the entire crop has been reduced by 40 or 50 per cent by the loss of yield and the fact that the crops were frozen severely once in August and twice in early September—will the government put together the personnel and machinery needed to make an assessment of the situation? Is the government willing to give some help in this desperate situation?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, I will convey that question to my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture. However, I should point out that farmers do have a number of safety-net programs that are available to soften blows such as nature dealt the farmers in recent times. There is basic protection against the financial impacts of crop loss through federal-provincial crop insurance programs; and, as a result of federal efforts to bring about new and more comprehensive protection, farmers can supplement crop insurance with revenue protection through GRIP, the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan. Finally, in the event of reduced net income, my honourable friend is aware that farmers can have resort to