

prevented them from speaking. I think that is contemptuous of the House.

The government House leader should be in his office right now looking at TV. I want to make sure that there is remedial action taken to prevent that bunch of incompetents from repeating the same thing. If he is going to call members of the House all kinds of names, he can be called an incompetent also. The government has incinerated its own supply day. It went up the chimney like smoke and ashes. Members of the government have ashes all over their faces right now, as far as I am concerned.

• (1630)

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I seek some clarification. The government House leader put the motion. Can you describe for us the status of that motion at the moment, in your mind?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the motion is in front of us. He made it quite clear, given the admonition I gave before, that he was co-operating with the Chair.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order.

Are the committees no longer valid for today since the supply motion is not in front of us?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to rule on that right now. I think that is a matter committee chairpersons will have to take into account.

I am making it very clear that I am not ruling on that at the moment. It goes to the very points that I have undertaken to look at very carefully tonight and return to the House tomorrow.

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

REQUEST FOR ROYAL PARDON FOR ANNETTE PROULX

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, I tabled last week in this House a petition signed by more than 8,000 people. I am tabling today another petition from another 8,000 or so people asking that royal clemency be granted immediately to Annette Proulx. It is clear in my mind and in that of all Canadians

Routine Proceedings

that this old lady who has spent the last 11 years in prison has paid her debt to society, that she is no threat to society and that she has suffered enough.

I therefore urge my colleagues in this House to support my request, and my colleagues from the Privy Council who are members of the inner committee that will decide on this case to let their heart speak and grant Mrs. Annette Proulx the royal pardon she has requested.

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, it is indeed an honour and a pleasure to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36. It is from all the members of the Kamloops and District Labour Council who have signed a petition in opposition to the goods and services tax.

They point out in some detail that any tax that taxes everything from coffins, to diapers, to home heating fuels, to haircuts, to books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers ought not to proceed. They are asking the Parliament of Canada to do whatever is possible to bring the government to its senses and to go back to the drawingboard and start all over with something that is meaningful and fair.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I have another petition to present on another matter.

The petitioners point out to us that one-sixth of all Canadian children live in poverty and that although the over-all child population has fallen by almost 4 per cent, the number of children living in poverty has actually increased by 13.4 per cent between 1980 and 1986.

The petitioners are asking members to support motion M-254 which proposed a comprehensive bill of rights for children. In a sense, this petition is now outdated because the government voted against having a bill of rights for children in Canada.

[Translation]

TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I rise today to present a petition from Lebel-sur-Quévillon, in the province of