

Government Orders

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, today I have the privilege and duty to present petitions signed by a few hundred more residents of Hamilton Mountain who are against the proposed 9 per cent goods and service tax. The petitioners believe that it will place an unnecessary burden on the low and middle income Canadians.

The petitioners humbly pray and call upon this House to reject the 9 per cent goods and service tax proposal.

• (1130)

BILL 178

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Madam Speaker, I have petitions this morning on three different topics. The first is a petition from some 35 people in my riding of Prince Edward—Hastings calling upon the government to pass a resolution of the House of Commons urging the Governor General In Council to give full force and effect to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by the exercising of its constitutional power of disallowance with respect to Bill 178 of the province of Quebec.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): I have a group of petitions again this morning, Madam Speaker, calling upon the government to reconsider its ludicrous cuts and alterations to VIA Rail passenger service in Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): I also have some 35 petitions with the names of 2,000 people who are calling upon the government to reconsider and go back to the drawing board on the goods and services tax.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Madam Speaker, I want to present a petition on behalf of a couple of hundred Canadians who again call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax. They note in their petition the increase by over 50 per cent in the manufacturers' sale tax which this is supposed to replace and question that and other tax increases that Canadians have suffered in the last number of years. They are concerned about the imposition of the goods and services

tax and the unfair hardship it will cause to low and middle-income Canadians.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to stand this morning and present a petition, duly authorized by Standing Order 36, on behalf of 36 Canadians from such centres as Toronto, Etobicoke, and Waterloo, who are condemning the government for the \$400 million cuts it is making to VIA Rail. They point out that this is going to result in a serious devaluation of passenger service in Canada and will result in layoffs of Canadian workers in the railway industry. They call upon the government to upgrade VIA Rail to the standard that the mandate given to VIA calls for rather than to take these drastic measures and cut services to people who desperately need them.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, I ask that all question be allowed to stand.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall all questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT SERVICES RESUMPTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board) moved that Bill C-49, an Act to provide for the resumption of certain government services, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Madam Speaker, I rise in the House today to introduce the second reading of Bill C-49, an Act to provide for the resumption of certain government services.

Madam Speaker, hon. members are aware that ships' crews have now been on strike for three weeks and that hospital services employees went on strike last week.