

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

**The Speaker:** — Prior to routine proceedings I ask the Assembly for leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

#### STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

##### Ruling on Points of Order

**The Speaker:** — Yesterday I reserved my decision on two matters relating to the use of petitions as an obstructive tactic and to the use of superseding motions to combat such tactics. I believe that the two points of order raised yesterday reflect the need on both sides of the House to deal with the broader issues that are preventing this House from accomplishing the public business.

Today I've had the opportunity to meet with the government and opposition House leaders in an effort to initiate discussions to enable the House to resume a more normal mode of operation. It is therefore my intention to further defer my rulings on these points of order at this time.

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

##### PRESENTING PETITIONS

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I rise under the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly* of Saskatchewan, rule 11(2), dealing with the presentation of petitions, and I have some petitions to present, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to do so at this time. The first petition I have is addressed to the Hon. Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan assembled here. And the prayer in the petition reads as follows:

That we the undersigned support the Saskatchewan Alliance Against Tax on Reading in opposition to tax on books, magazines, and newspapers. We believe that a tax on reading is a tax on knowledge and information, and is detrimental to our society. Traditionally, books, magazines and newspapers in Canada have been exempt from sales taxes because Canadians have recognized the cultural, social, educational values of the written word. The proposed provincial tax on reading will be the only one of its kind in Canada. The Saskatchewan government's proposal to add a 7% provincial tax on top of the new 7% GST on books and periodicals will mean that readers in Saskatchewan will be among the highest taxed in the world.

We urge the Saskatchewan government NOT to tax reading materials!

This petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by many Saskatchewan citizens coming from areas such as Regina, Saskatoon, Balgonie. I believe the majority of the ones on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Regina. And I

do hereby lay this petition on the Table.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — I wish also, Mr. Speaker, to lay on the Table a petition with the same prayer which I just read out. And the people on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from such varied places in Saskatchewan as Regina, Avonlea, further ones from Regina. I believe the bulk of them are from the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me a great deal of pleasure to lay the view of these people on the Table, with regard to the provincial GST (goods and services tax).

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition here from a number of Saskatchewan people. And I want to read the prayer of this petition, Mr. Speaker, addressed to the members of the Assembly.

The petition of the undersigned residents of the Province of Saskatchewan humbly sheweth:

That the Provincial Government does not have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to impose the major tax increase which would result from its proposed provincial GST.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have had an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

I think it's quite clear from this petition, Mr. Speaker, what the views of the people are.

These people by and large, Mr. Speaker, come from the city of Saskatoon. And it gives me a great deal of pleasure to lay this petition on the Table.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Order, order. I've been listening to the presentation of the petitions by the hon. member and have been doing a bit of research. Regarding the presenting of petitions, the prayer doesn't include the whole petition. The prayer includes that part of the petition which starts with the words "Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray," which is I believe different than the prayer that the hon. member . . . I believe you have been reading the whole petition.

The prayer begins with the words "Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray . . ." That's the prayer part of the petition and that is the part of the petition that we in the past have . . . that has been the practice of reading that portion of the petition and presenting it.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your direction on that matter.

I have a further petition here and I won't read the prayer, Mr. Speaker, because it's the same as the prayer on the last petition I read. But suffice it to say that these people

are concerned about the imposition of the provincial GST and urge the provincial government to stop this particular tax, and to not pass this but have a provincial election instead.

These people exclusively, Mr. Speaker, are from the city of Estevan. I lay this petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — I also want to lay another petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker. This is a similar prayer on the petition. And the context of the petition is the same, that the people are concerned about the imposition of a major tax increase such as the provincial GST, and they want a provincial election.

These people, Mr. Speaker, are almost exclusively from Estevan, Saskatchewan, although I see names here from Bienfait, Eastend, Swift Current as well. It's with a great deal of pleasure I lay this petition on the Table, which contains the views of those people, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — This petition is different than the previous one, Mr. Speaker. And I lay it on the Table with the same sense of gravity that I did the previous one.

These people are concerned about the tax on reading material. They feel it's detrimental to the knowledge in our society. And they suggest that books, magazines, newspapers in Canada be exempt from taxes because Canadians have recognized the cultural, social, and educational value of the written word.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. While it may be different, is that the prayer that you're referring to? Is that the prayer in your petition that you're referring to?

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, I was merely explaining what the petition was about.

**The Speaker:** — I know that this is . . . We have gone over this several times. When presenting petitions we try not to make comments which are of a nature of debate or may provoke debate, and that is the reason why members are asked to stick strictly to the prayer of the petition and then therefore petitions can flow more smoothly.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you for that guidance, Mr. Speaker. This petition is different from the previous petition I presented, Mr. Speaker. These are the words that are contained on the petition which these people have affixed their names to. And they urge the Government of Saskatchewan not to tax reading material, and the prayer says:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to reverse its decision to impose this unfair tax.

This particular petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by a number of people, some from Regina, some from Kyle, some from Tisdale, Melville; further ones, Yorkton, White

City, and now one from Melville. And I lay this petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of these people who have signed their name upon it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — This particular petition, Mr. Speaker, deals with the same subject matter, that of the tax on reading material, to which the people have affixed their signature. They're opposed to this new tax which is a tax on another tax.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Now I have asked the hon. member several times not to repeat the prayer, and referring to the prayer is tantamount to repeating the prayer. I have asked you several times. If you persist, I am going to have to go to the next member. So I recognize you once more.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Mr. Speaker, may I ask you to clarify? Did you say that I cannot read the prayer?

**The Speaker:** — I said you, sir, are . . . Order, order. You are presenting petitions page by page, and except where you have made a distinction, the petitions are of a like nature. I have ruled that the prayer of all petitions which are of a like nature be referred to or read once. After that, that the petitions simply be submitted without repeating the prayer or referring to it.

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to indicate to the House which petition this is, because I have a number of petitions here, this is the particular petition that's dealing with the tax on reading materials. These people are opposed to the imposition of that tax and they state that in the prayer which is attached to the document here.

The people that signed this particular petition are from such diverse places as White City, Regina, Prince Albert, and mostly from the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker. And I lay this petition on the Table on behalf of those people.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to proceed with . . .

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Hodgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I would seek leave of the Assembly to introduce our guests in the gallery.

**The Speaker:** — The member has sought leave. I note once again that we have a good number of guests. May I ask leave on behalf of all of the members who wish to do the same.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Hodgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery, I would like to introduce to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all members of this legislature, a group of grade 11 and 12 students from the great constituency of Melfort.

These students are also from the great school, Bernard

Constant Community School. These students are accompanied by their teachers, Dave McGill and Linda Kerslake. And it's my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Saskatchewan legislature. We trust that you will have a very enjoyable and informative day while you're in Regina.

I do look forward to meeting with you at the . . . well perhaps not at the conclusion of question period, but at least at 2:30 or thereabouts, and I hope at that time we can have some pictures and have a cup of coffee or juice or some such. So welcome to the legislature.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Hardy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to introduce to you and to the members of the Legislative Assembly, a group of people and friends of mine from the town of Hudson Bay. They're here meeting with the Minister of Labour later this afternoon. And they're here in regards to the concerns they have about the town and community of Hudson Bay. I want to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

We call our town the moose capital of the world or the beautiful north-east, and it's certainly great for them to come down to Regina. And I know many of them had the opportunity to come before. I want to wish them a safe journey home.

I want to also invite them to come down to my office later on this afternoon, room 204, at 4 o'clock after they've met with the Minister of Labour. And we'll discuss I believe some things that are very important to their community. I'd like to ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to help me welcome my friends and neighbours from Hudson Bay to this Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise because I would like to join with the member for Kelsey-Tisdale in extending greetings to the visitors here from Hudson Bay. I do that because Hudson Bay has a special attraction for me. It is my home town where I went to high school and I know many of the people who are in the gallery today.

I would like to extend to them a welcome and wish them well in their endeavours as they are here in Regina for a purpose and look forward to meeting with them along with several of my other colleagues later on in the day. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the member for Kelsey-Tisdale in welcoming the people from Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan. I have a long association with Kelsey-Tisdale constituency having been born in Tisdale and raised on a farm south-east of Tisdale. I know that these people are a composite group from the Hudson Bay area and will be meeting with us later on today.

Not only do I have that connection with that

constituency, but my father was the MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) for that constituency for twenty-nine and a half years, which is a . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — . . . which is a long time. And the people of that area have taken the trouble to erect a cairn in that area which in fact reflects his long service to the constituency. So I'm especially pleased to join with the other two members in welcoming the people from Kelsey-Tisdale.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Saxinger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to you, and through you to the members of this Assembly, a couple from Birch Hills, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thoen. They are in my constituency. They are here to do some business and I want to welcome them, and I hope they enjoy their stay and their visit in Regina. And I want to ask the members of this Assembly to welcome them here to this Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sauder:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to the other members of the Assembly, a group of students from my constituency. I believe there is 30 grade 6 and 7 students from the Red Earth school in Red Earth, Saskatchewan.

They've come down to spend the day here in Regina and I'm not sure, longer. I trust that they're going to have an enjoyable and interesting time here, perhaps learn a little bit about how our system works here, as well as do some sightseeing of other things in the city.

They are accompanied as well today by their teachers Mr. Eldon Okanee and Mr. Ray MacDonald, and as well their bus driver, Mr. Sam McKay. I just ask each and everyone of you to help me welcome them. They've had a long bus ride — it's a fairly long way to come down here. And I know that this school has made an effort over the years to have student groups come down to visit Regina and what's available to see here.

I look forward to meeting with them around 3 o'clock to discuss the proceedings that they have witnessed and to have some refreshments with them. Please join me in welcoming my students from Red Earth.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Pringle:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce 43 grade 9 and 10 students from Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon in my constituency. It's a collegiate of some 1,500 students. And I know many of these students, and I certainly know their parents and I'm delighted to see them. Accompanying the students are David Hedlin, Avon Whittles, Walt Bykowsky and Debbie Arndt. And of course we have two sons going to that school and think very highly of the school and of course of the teachers that are there. And it's a great school, and I will

be meeting with the students in a few minutes. And I hope that you enjoy your trip back. I look forward to sharing a few comments and some juice with you shortly. Welcome.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my words of greeting and welcome to the students from Walter Murray Collegiate. Many of the students reside in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, and I just want to say in addition to the welcome from the member from Eastview, how pleased I am to have them here in the gallery this afternoon.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Neudorf:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I had not really intended to get up to make an introduction today, but looking up in the opposite gallery there I saw a young couple that caught my attention. And I would just like to inform the hon. members here that my son Dean and his new bride Brenda are here. I guess they are back from their honeymoon, on the way home, and have stopped in here. They do look a little bit tired so we won't take too much of their time. And I'm very glad to see you back and I'll be talking to you shortly.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to join with other members in introducing students in the Assembly today. Along with the group of students from Walter Murray Collegiate in the east gallery which is facing me, there are a group of students from Bedford Road Collegiate in Saskatoon. They are grade 9 and 10 students. They are 38 in number and they are accompanied by Richard Dybvig and Carol Jensen.

Bedford Road Collegiate is one of the older and highly recognized collegiates in Saskatoon. They draw students from not only Westmount constituency, but Fairview constituency and Riversdale constituency as well. And yes they have some distinguished graduates from that high school, some in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, Bedford Road Collegiate has distinguished itself academically and it has distinguished itself otherwise in sports as well. It is situated approximately in the middle of Saskatoon Westmount constituency no matter what set of boundaries you use.

So I'm very pleased to welcome all those students from Bedford Road Collegiate. I'll look forward to the opportunity to meet with you later on and perhaps answer some questions. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Meiklejohn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to join my colleague, the MLA from Westmount, to welcome the students from Bedford Road. A good number of them also live in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, in the Mayfair area.

And I would also like to add my words of welcome to all of the students who are visiting the Assembly here today. I think that at this time of year we always enjoy having students come in from all over the province, and I think it's an excellent learning experience for them. I'm sure some days they learn much more than others, but it is an important part of their education, I think, to have a better understanding as to how our democratic system works here in Saskatchewan.

I'm not going to be meeting with the students from Bedford Road today, but I think I am going to be visiting their school later on next week and I will look forward to meeting them at that time. And I also join with my colleague in welcoming them here today.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the brief interlude for introduction of students, I've lost track of which petition I was presenting. So I will have to inform the House and myself by reading the prayer, Mr. Speaker, because I'm not sure which one I presented last.

In any case, these people that signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are concerned about the imposition of a 7 per cent tax on top of a 7 per cent tax on books and reading material in the province of Saskatchewan. They urge the Government of Saskatchewan to not tax reading materials. And the prayer says:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to reverse its decision to impose this unfair tax.

And the petitioners come from a number of places in the city of Regina. These are by and large in the city of Regina, and with a great deal of pleasure I lay that petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker.

I want to lay another petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker. And this particular petition is of a different prayer, and I will read it. These people are concerned about the imposition of the provincial GST in a general way, referring to it as a major tax increase. And they say:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have had an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

These petitioners who've signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, appear to be almost exclusively from Carlton Drive in Regina, and I take a great deal of pleasure in laying this petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brockelbank:** — I have another petition here, Mr. Speaker, and it's the same prayer as the previous one I read. The people on this petition that have signed it are

concerned about the provincial GST in a general way and its imposition before a provincial election, and they are from the city of Saskatoon. I take a great deal of pleasure in laying this petition on the Table.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to occupy the whole of the time. I know other members have petitions they want to lay on the Table, so I'll cease laying petitions on the Table for today after a couple more, Mr. Speaker.

These particular residents of Saskatchewan are concerned in a general way about the imposition of the proposed provincial GST and they ask that the government not proceed without having first gone to a provincial election. These people are, Mr. Speaker, exclusively from the city of Saskatoon, and I lay their petition on the Table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The final petition I want to lay on the Table today, Mr. Speaker, is from residents who are concerned about the imposition of the sales tax on books, magazines, and newspapers. And it's different than the previous prayer. They're praying that the Assembly "... be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to reverse its decision to impose this unfair tax."

These people that signed this petition are all, I believe, Mr. Speaker, from the city of Regina and it's with a great deal of pleasure that I lay this petition on the Table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 11, I'm honoured to be able to bring petitions to the Assembly along with my other colleagues here today. These petitions that I wish to present, Mr. Speaker, are different in the prayers but all of the same nature, Mr. Speaker, in that they express opposition to the provincial GST

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I'm going to make one clarification, and I allowed the hon. member from Saskatoon Westmount to get through his petitions. What the hon. member — from what I could gather — was ... he had two prayers which were the same and then he would revert from one to the other. I'm not going to allow you to do that. You have two prayers. How you choose to submit them is up to you, but you don't keep referring to them. Thank you.

**Mr. Hagel:** — I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, and in fact that was my intention, to present of a similar prayer together. And I think that's what you're asking in the presentation of petitions to this House.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners on the first petition I'd like to present are asking that the provincial government ... are of the view that the provincial government does not have a mandate to introduce the provincial goods and services tax. And they pray then, and I will read the prayer, Mr. Speaker, to make it abundantly clear what they're asking.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST

until ... the province have an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

Mr. Speaker, these people on this petition all come from the city of Saskatoon, with the exception of one petitioner here, Mr. Speaker, on the full sheet, who is from the community of Central Butte which is in the constituency of Thunder Creek.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honour on behalf of these petitioners to present their view to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, with the same prayer and same request of the Government of Saskatchewan, it is my honour to present another petition. The petitioners on this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from several communities around the province of Saskatchewan. These petitioners come from Star City, from Melfort, from Beatty, from Kinistino, from Rose Valley, from St. Brieux, and also from Mistatim, and one petitioner here from Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honour again on behalf of these petitioners to present their wish to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, with the same prayer, I have the honour of presenting another petition on behalf of another, I believe it's 25 petitioners, who are from ... it would appear that they are from three communities. The bulk of these petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from the city of Regina — from all parts of Regina, from several different areas of the city — as well as from Sedley, and as well as from Richardson, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, on their behalf, it is my honour to present this petition to this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, a further petition of, I believe, this is 21 petitioners who, again with the same prayer, are asking that the goods and services tax be withdrawn until there is opportunity for an election in Saskatchewan.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, all hail from the city of Saskatoon, without exception. And again they're from several areas of Saskatoon ranging from Degeer Street to McKinnon to Main Street and Connaught Place. Some of these may even be friends and neighbours of members of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

And I note as well that there are some who sign their addresses rural route address, which I assume signifies that they are doing their ... receiving their mail in the city but are in fact rural residents in the Saskatoon area. On their behalf, Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, another petition. This I believe is another 25 petitioners. These people, Mr. Speaker, are from ... all from the city of Regina, from all parts of Regina, ranging from Park to Francis to Woodlawn to Angus and Burns and Cushing and Broadway, and so on. There are several other streets and crescents within the ... and avenues within the city.

Mr. Speaker, these petitioners again submit this petition with the same prayer as the previous ones, and as with

those it is my honour to allow for them the democratic expression of their wish to this their Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, these petitioners that I have before me now express the same prayer. I recognize two or three of these, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, who I would consider to be personal acquaintances. These petitioners are all from the city of Moose Jaw. And those that I recognize are seniors, Mr. Speaker, who again request that the province withdraw the tax and call an election to earn a mandate. They come from places such as Victoria Park Towers and Fairford Street in Moose Jaw. And on their behalf I am particularly pleased, Mr. Speaker, as the representative from that city, to bring their will to this their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, again with the same prayer and for the same reasons, this would be I believe in the neighbourhood of 28 or 29 petitioners who ask that their signatures be submitted on this same prayer as well, Mr. Speaker. These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, come from Asquith and the remainder of them all appear . . . most of them have Saskatoon beside them. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, have addresses and I assume by the location here that they are also Saskatoon people. And so on their behalf, Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and my privilege to present their will to the Legislative Assembly by presentation of this petition.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present as well another petition. These are also largely Saskatoon people, although I see Blaine Lake in an address here as well, Mr. Speaker. This would be some 20 or 25 people all of whom are in the northern part of the province. This petition is the same prayer as well, Mr. Speaker.

These people come from different parts of Saskatoon such as Louise Street, 1st Street, Churchill Crescent, McCormack Road, Mills Crescent, Ruth Street, and several others, Mr. Speaker. They appear to be from several sections of the city of Saskatoon as well as Blaine Lake of course. And, Mr. Speaker, on their behalf it's my honour again to present this petition to this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, what's interesting is that although this is a petition with the same prayer, it is done with different print, and although the prayer I will not read it, it is identical to the previous that I've submitted. What it also tells me, Mr. Speaker, is that there are petitioners who, not able to get a copy of one that had been printed, have drafted their own. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that that is something that leads me to be particularly pleased to submit this because this is done with some extra effort on the part of these people.

Mr. Speaker, this . . . oh, there's some on the back here as well; I'll advise the Clerk, Mr. Speaker. These petitioners all appear to be from the city of Regina, as I look at the address, with the exception of a Pilot Butte person. The remainder all appear to be from Regina, ranging from Rothwell Street to Dewdney, Truesdale, From Crescent, and Bayda Crescent and so on. They're virtually all from

different streets, Mr. Speaker, and it is my honour to present their will to this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to present another petition. This petition is signed by people who are from Beechy as well as from the city of Saskatoon. I don't know what parts of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, because these are all signed just simply Saskatoon, identifying their community. It's with the same prayer as those that I've previously submitted, Mr. Speaker, and so these are people who obviously are of the view that the GST, the provincial GST, should be withdrawn by the government until it earns a mandate through a provincial election. And it is my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to present their wish to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan — to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present another petition on behalf of some additional — I believe it's 25 — citizens of . . . They are all from Saskatchewan. These people, Mr. Speaker, come from a combination of Saskatoon and Regina. And I have one here — I have difficulty reading the writing — they either live on a Portland Crescent or they're from Portland, but I think it's from a Portland Crescent, Mr. Speaker.

These people are again of the same view as those who signed the petitions that I previously submitted, with the same prayer, and on behalf of these people from streets such as Wallace and Atkinson and Bastedo and Francis and Elphinstone and Borden and Broadway. People will recognize . . . Those who signed them will recognize those streets, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to submit them to this their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have before me another petition which it is my pleasure to present. These petitioners are all from the city of Saskatoon except for one who's from Hendon, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Again I don't know what parts of Saskatoon those who indicate here; they note only the name of the city. And it's with the same prayer as the previous petition. Mr. Speaker, on their behalf I am honoured to present their will to this their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, these petitioners are also from the city of Regina with the same prayer. These petitioners are from Wascana Greens and from 10th Avenue — and there seem to be several from the same apartment block here by the looks of it, Mr. Speaker. Again they are of the view that the provincial government should withdraw the provincial GST until it earns a mandate in a provincial election. And on their behalf I submit this petition, Mr. Speaker.

(1445)

Mr. Speaker, as well these petitioners are all on 8th Avenue, and I believe that these are from Regina. I'm just noting the community on here, Mr. Speaker. These people again submit their petition with the same prayer as those that I've previously submitted. And in respect of the democratic process, it's my honour to submit this as well.

Mr. Speaker, here are some people that I recognize as personal friends. And these are people, Mr. Speaker, who

are on this petition — it looks as though someone went down the block — these are people from Iroquois Street West, in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. This is no surprise that there are petitions here from Moose Jaw. And we've heard Moose Jaw being referred to frequently, Mr. Speaker, because petitions have been located all over the city and people have been going door-to-door with them.

And so on their behalf, Mr. Speaker, as member for Moose Jaw, it is my particular pleasure to present their petition requesting that the provincial government withdraw the provincial goods and services tax and call an election to earn a mandate to take such action.

Mr. Speaker, this is from Argyle Street in Regina, and a similar petition with the identical — not similar, identical petition, Mr. Speaker. And on behalf of the folks on Argyle Street in Regina, I'm pleased to submit their will to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, again from Moose Jaw, I'm pleased to submit this petition. These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough, come from two parts of the city of Moose Jaw: from Duffield West, which is an area represented by . . . and very well represented, I might add, by the member from Moose Jaw South.

The member from Thunder Creek will take particular interest as well, Mr. Speaker, in petitions coming from 16th Avenue . . . Oh, sorry, this is South West. Well he might be interested in that too, but these are not in the . . . The member from Moose Jaw South assures me that he's interested in the petitions of anyone from 16th Avenue South West and he is.

And I, on his behalf as well — although I have the honour of formally submitting it, Mr. Speaker — I submit this.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize some more folks here. This petition is entirely made up from people in Moose Jaw. These people are from both constituencies of Moose Jaw North and South. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, the same prayer as those that I've previously submitted, and people who are of the view that a mandate can be earned to introduce a provincial goods and services tax by calling an election. And, Mr. Speaker, on their behalf it is my honour indeed to present this petition.

Mr. Speaker, I have five more petitions to present and then I will take my place. This is the final one that I wish to present today, Mr. Speaker, which is of the same prayer, and then I'll be going to a different prayer. But this is the final one I wish to present today, Mr. Speaker, from people who are expressing the view that the government does not have a mandate to introduce a tax and should call an election before attempting to introduce the provincial goods and services tax.

These petitioners, Mr. Speaker, are all . . . several indicate Regina and the rest, I believe, are Regina addresses. And, Mr. Speaker, on their behalf it is my honour to submit their will to this their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to submit what I believe would be about 25 names from petitioners who express their opinion to this Legislative Assembly, specifically in terms

of a concern for the tax being placed on reading materials. So they focus specifically, Mr. Speaker, urging the provincial government to withdraw the 7 per cent GST on books and periodicals, and express their concern that this tax which they're currently paying makes readers in Saskatchewan among the highest taxed in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I won't debate that point although I think my view is probably quite obvious.

Mr. Speaker, these people are from several places around Saskatchewan. Oh, I even see Alberta here. But, Mr. Speaker, they're from Alsask, which would be right on the border of Alberta and Saskatchewan; they're from Swift Current, they're from Lashburn, one from Saskatoon, Kindersley. Interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, from as far away as Tappen, British Columbia. They are opposed to the tax on reading here in Saskatchewan. More from Alsask, from Oyen, Alberta, many from Alsask — boy, they must be upset about this in Alsask, Mr. Speaker.

And so, Mr. Speaker, on behalf . . . this petition, interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, comes from citizens in western Canada who are opposed to the reading tax imposed by the PC (Progressive Conservative) government in Saskatchewan. And on behalf of all these people, Saskatchewanians, Albertans, and British Columbians, I present this view to the Legislative Assembly.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is . . . I said before, one of the things that's interesting is that there have been people in Saskatchewan who have literally been so upset that they've not waited for a petition to come around and have drafted their own. And this is another one. These are all with the same prayer but interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, whereas it's typical that you find petitions with a fair amount of space to write names, this has been hand drawn, and I would estimate would encompass about 50 to 60 signatures per page. They're squeezing them in here, Mr. Speaker, in order to express their view.

Mr. Speaker, these people are expressing their opposition to the 7 per cent PST (provincial sales tax), and if I can read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to refuse to extend the PST to goods and services which have not previously been subject to tax.

Mr. Speaker, these people are simply opposed to the 7 per cent PST in any way, shape or form no matter how it comes, and they are to be complimented for their efforts to oppose this tax.

And as I look at this petition, Mr. Speaker, I'll read some of the names of the communities. But I'm very pleased to say that the large, large majority of people on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from my home city of Moose Jaw. I see petitioners here from 1st Avenue North East, from Hawthorne Crescent, from Langdon Towers, from Skipton Road, and Grandview Street and Manitoba Street, Coteau and Hastings. Member from Moose Jaw

South is particularly interested in these.

Mr. Speaker, this is not only from Moose Jaw, this is an international petition. There is . . . oh, no, I think someone perhaps was being frivolous here. I'll scratch that one out. I didn't see the name.

From Ross Street and Brown Street and Francis and Ominica and Simcoe, Hastings, Duffield, Home, Queen Crescent. From the city of Regina; the town of Mortlach. Some rural box addresses; Iroquois Street; Mossbank. From Morse — there are several here from Morse who are opposed to this tax. Several from Viceroy, and from Langdon Crescent; from Hearne, from Rouleau, from Wolfe, from Grandview. Mr. Speaker, these folks are from all over. And several just simply list Moose Jaw.

So on their behalf I am very, very pleased to present their will — to see the PST rejected in all shapes and forms — to this their Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hagel:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, this next petition is one that the current member for Thunder Creek will want to take significant interest in. It's the same prayer, Mr. Speaker. And I recognize that some of these petitioners, Mr. Speaker, live in the part of the current constituency of Moose Jaw North, which is my honour to represent, but which, if the proposed boundary changes do develop, will fall into the constituency of Thunder Creek.

Mr. Speaker, there are people . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Order. It's not a large issue but I think you are making a comment there which could be construed as provoking debate, and I ask you to refrain from that.

**Mr. Hagel:** — I thank you for that ruling, Mr. Speaker. It is not my intention to provoke debate, but simply to present the views of these people which is very clearly, in their point of view, undebatable, I would think.

These folks, Mr. Speaker, from Moose Jaw, Brown Street — I see them from the town of Marquis — from Thorn Crescent, from Wood Lily Drive, from Coteau, from Dunn, Athabasca, Duffield, Montgomery, some rural post office box numbers — several of those; Athabasca was quite busy — from Clifton, from the Canadian Forces Base. I see here from Fairford and 2nd Avenue North West and Hall and Alder, and from Assiniboia, from the town of Assiniboia, from Dundurn.

This may very well have been signed during the band parade, Mr. Speaker, but on behalf of all of these people . . . on behalf of all of these people, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to present their objection to the PST in this, their Legislative Assembly.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, this is again with the same prayer; again this is another 50 to 60 people largely from Moose Jaw. And just to recognize where these people are from, again the member from Moose Jaw South and I will take interest, as might one other member like to note, or more. And these, Mr. Speaker, come from parts of Moose

Jaw like Aster Crescent, from Stadacona and Ominica and Monk and Main and Coteau and 3rd Avenue, and from the town of Caronport, from Maple Street and 6th Avenue and Coteau West and Queen Crescent and High Street and King Crescent; others from the same streets; from Vaughan and Fairford and Athabasca. Mr. Speaker, this one has been all over the city; from Francis; many who just say Moose Jaw, and 10th Avenue North West.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by submitting, with great honour and in respect of the democratic process, and the right for these people to have their will known in this Legislative Assembly, that they object to the 7 per cent provincial goods and services tax being unfairly imposed by the PC government.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As was the case with the two members before me, I rise to present petitions. Following what I understand to have been Mr. Speaker's ruling, I will omit part of the petition and read what follows the word "wherefore", which I gather is what you said we could do.

This petition then says:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

These people who are therefore opposed to the PST . . . This petition is some 20 names from Saskatoon: Woodward, Moxon, McKenzie, Lorne, Avenue H, McKinnon, McKinnon, Dunning, Barabas — that's a strange name but that's what it looks like; and one from outside the city, presumably a rural person with a post office box in the city. These people ask the Government of Saskatchewan to get a mandate before they pass the PST.

I will submit that. Thank you.

These names are interesting, Mr. Speaker. One hops around the province. Some of these names I've not heard before. Well here's one that I defy anyone to tell me precisely where it is: it's called Watson Lake, Yukon. The petitions are being presented, I gather, by people from across Canada, or at least western Canada, because they're afraid that this many happen in their jurisdictions.

(1500)

This one, Mr. Speaker, comes from the city of Prince Albert. One doesn't know where because someone signed just P.A. and the rest all did the same. Some are from outside the city because they've post office box 293. There are some from 10th street, some from Plaxton Place, and one from 22nd Street East. These people have asked that the government seek a mandate before proceeding with the Bill. I'll table this and I thank the page.



This is the petition in virtually the same form, Mr. Speaker — well it's not virtually the same form, it's precisely the same form. And we're back to Saskatoon . . . no, not entirely; this one is all over the province. Really got the four corners covered on this one. We have some from Haviland Bay, Deborah, East Place — I think those are all in Saskatoon. Then out of Saskatoon to Colonsay, back to Saskatoon, down to Regina, west to Melfort . . . east to Melfort rather. And quite a number of others, I think from Saskatoon, from Easthill, from Fusedale, Jackson, Swan, Thiessen, Murphy, Blain, Taylor, and a few from the Saskatoon district because they've given post office boxes. I'll submit this as well.

This one moves further south, Mr. Speaker — some names that will be familiar to virtually anyone I think in Saskatchewan. We have three from Regina, one from the very pretty community of Regina Beach, another from Kelliher, and one from Maryfield, that is south of Moosomin about 20 miles. One it says Churchill Downs; it's the riding that I have been nominated in. A couple more Regina, one from Lumsden, one from White City, one from Hill Avenue in Regina, and a few others from Regina.

These people, as has been the case, ask that this government seek a mandate before proceeding with the PST. I'll ask the page to take that to the Table. Thank you.

This is a petition, Mr. Speaker, in the same form, and we're going back north to Saskatoon again. These names are from all over the city of Saskatoon. It's an issue which apparently cuts across community lines. Bell Crescent . . . I'll read a sampling of these streets. Bell Crescent, Wilson, East Place, Baldwin, Ewart, 11th Street, Glasgow — that's got to be Glasgow Street — Laurentian Drive, Adelaide, Preston, Louise Street, Eastlake, Wilson, Riel, Wollaston, Munroe, and Preston. No street repeated on this. These are from . . . these people from all over Saskatoon have asked this government to seek a mandate before this major tax increase.

Yet another petition, Mr. Speaker, from the same community obviously. Again I'll read out the streets and will not, in the interest of time, in the interests of the efficient use of the legislature's time, I won't repeat any that appear more than once.

There are some who live on Avenue F, some who live on 2nd Avenue, some who live on 8th Street. We see Wilson Street, Louise Street, Parkdale street, Lindsay Street, East Heights. One St. Henry Avenue, Taylor Street, Eastview, Swan, East Heights, 4th Street East. Obviously people from around the city of Saskatoon, who want the government to seek a mandate before passing the PST. I thank the page for his kindly attendance to that.

Remaining in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, we have another petition urging the government to stop the PST and seek a mandate. Again we have some from Bedford Road, Tache or Tache, depending on the nationality of the name, Tache Crescent, Avenue F North, Avenue L South, 33rd Street West, Avenue O South, Saskatchewan Avenue, Cumberland Avenue, Cumberland Crescent — I guess that's different — Bedford Road, 22nd Street West, 6th Avenue, Avenue P, 3rd Avenue North, 8th Street, 32nd

Street, Avenue G North, and King Street.

From all over Saskatoon, people are urging this government to seek a mandate before passing the PST. And I'll ask the page to present that.

This petition, Mr. Speaker, moves again further north to what might generally be described as the Prince Albert and Shellbrook area. The first name is from Prince Albert. The second name, I won't give it but I know these people are from Holbein, Saskatchewan. Holbein is a community some 20 miles west of Prince Albert.

Some more from Big River, some more from Spruce Home, which I think is close to Prince Albert; some from Smeaton, and a large number from Prince Albert who have asked that this government not proceed with the PST until it has a proper mandate for doing so.

Mr. Speaker, this petition takes us back to Saskatoon again — these people asking the provincial government to stop the PST before introducing it. People from around the city of Saskatoon, 32nd Street West, Avenue F, Crean Lane, Turtle Crescent, Avenue K South, Saskatoon; Barren Lane — some of these names are very picturesque — 22nd Street West, Avenue G North, Saskatchewan Avenue, Avenue F North, 32nd Street, Avenue C North. Then one that is right out of the city altogether in Big River, a fair distance from Saskatoon actually — one who has listed their address as Super Place — I'm not sure what that is or what it refers to. A couple more from Saskatoon. These people have asked that the provincial government seek a mandate before proceeding with the PST.

This petition is also from Saskatoon, by about 20 people I would judge quickly, who urge the provincial government to stop the PST until it has a mandate. These people are from Sandy Court — this looks like the sanatorium, perhaps there is such an address — 6th Avenue North, 22nd Street, Hoey Avenue, East View, Shannon Lane, Saskatoon; Avenue I North, Empire Avenue, and R.R. 4 — obviously someone from outside the city of Saskatoon who gets their mail in Saskatoon. As has been the case with the others these people have asked the provincial government to seek a mandate before imposing this large tax increase.

Mr. Speaker, this takes us further south quite a distance to Regina. Some eight names this time from people who asked the provincial government not to introduce the PST before seeking a mandate. All are from Regina. We don't know where because the first person on the list put down Regina, Saskatchewan, and the others have all done the same. So one can only speculate about where these people come from. They do however ask the government to get a mandate before proceeding with the PST.

Mr. Speaker, this petition takes us back to Saskatoon. This is sort of a travelogue around the province. This takes us back to Saskatoon people, some 10 in number, who've signed this petition, who ask that the provincial government stop the PST before getting a mandate.

They would appear to me to come from different parts of Saskatoon — McEown Avenue, Salisbury Drive, Niderost

Street, Coy Avenue, Moxon Crescent, Clark Crescent, Baldwin Crescent, Glasgow Street, and a couple who have just listed it as Saskatoon. As has been the case with the others, these people ask their provincial government not to proceed with this tax until they have a clear mandate to do so.

This petition, Mr. Speaker, takes us back to Duffield Street . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Moose Jaw.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Actually back to Moose Jaw, that's right. Someone helps me out. Duffield is obviously in Moose Jaw, and by the sounds of it, in Moose Jaw South, in the riding of Moose Jaw South.

These people ask the provincial government to stop the provincial GST until the people of Saskatchewan have an opportunity to pass on it. They come from — Moose Jaw has such picturesque names — Duffield, Coteau Street, Home Street, Grandview Street, a couple from outside, one in particular from Tuxford, one as well who lives on Iroquois Street.

These people all from the city of Moose Jaw — with one exception, I think, from Tuxford — ask that the provincial government seek a mandate, a clear mandate before proceeding with this tax. With the assistance of the page, I'll lay that on the Table.

Mr. Speaker, this petition takes us back to Prince Albert, of people who are asking . . . these are some 20 names, 20 people who ask the provincial government to stop the PST. These people are from Prince Albert and district, I guess one could say, although sometimes they're a fair ways out. From Prince Albert, and then I think we proceed north to Candle Lake, to Cochin Lake, Emma Lake — very pretty communities. The others I would judge to have come from the city of Prince Albert itself.

These are people who, as has been the case in the past, ask the government to seek a clear mandate before passing the tax. I'll table that as well, Mr. Speaker.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, these names put a bit of a premium on your knowledge of Saskatchewan streets, because there's no cities. This one is Regina. This is a petition — the wording is the same; the format of the wording is a little different but the wording is precisely the same, so I won't read it — indicates that the source of the petition is more than just one, that people are taking the necessary steps to reproduce these on their own.

As has been the case in the past, they ask the government to stop the GST. These are from all around Regina, virtually every corner. Leopold Crescent; can't read that; Darke Crescent, 15th Avenue, south Albert, Hamilton Crescent, Hamilton Street — actually different parts of the city. Haultain Crescent, Discovery Street, Shannon Road, Runciman Crescent, 26th Avenue, Castle Road, Lake, College, Downey Crescent, Montreal Street. That's my constituency actually — 2300 block Montague; 6th Avenue North, Lothian Mews. I apologize if I haven't pronounced that properly; the writing isn't terribly clear. Jenkins Drive, Athol Street, Argyle Street, Hillsdale, and

lastly 4th Avenue. Virtually all corners of the city covered in this petition.

**An Hon. Member:** — You missed one street.

(1515)

**Mr. Shillington:** — That's possible. I'll go through them again if the members want, to be sure. I would table that. I'd ask the page to take that petition to the Table and Table it in the formal way.

We are, Mr. Speaker, this time back to Saskatoon, by some 20 people. I think there's 20 spaces on this form — 20 people who ask the government not to proceed with the provincial sales tax, the changes to the provincial sales tax, that is, without seeking a clear mandate.

These people are from various places in Saskatoon. Again virtually no street repeated; 4th Street East, York Avenue, McEown something, 5th Avenue North, Hoeschen Crescent — I hope I pronounced that correctly — Sturby Place, Louise Street, Lindsay Drive, Jarvis Drive, Tuber Crescent — that sounds odd — Tucker Crescent, Fisher Crescent, Kingsmere Boulevard, Moxon Crescent, Louise Street, Hoeschdale Crescent — I don't think that's right, but that's what it appears to be — Lake Crescent, and the last one is just unreadable. These signatures obviously by a very elderly person because the handwriting is very shaky. The place is just simply not readable.

These people, as has been the case in the past, urge the provincial government to stop the PST before they have a clear mandate to do so. And I'll ask the page to take that to the Table.

This petition, Mr. Speaker, is again same wording, different format — and one has to quickly check that it is the same wording — of people who ask the provincial government to stop the PST. They come mainly from Regina, but not entirely: from Garnet Street in Regina; Rose Street, my constituency actually, 2200 block Rose Street; Argyle Street in the southern part of the city; Wallace Street; Procter Place; 25th Avenue; Broadway — one is just moving around the city here; Froom Crescent; south Albert and north Albert; Robinson Street; Castle Road; a couple I'll come back to in a moment — they're not from Regina; Underhill Crescent; Knowles Crescent; Glen Elm Trailer Court; Cameron Street, again, my constituency; Glen Elm Trailer Court again; a couple I can't read; Dewdney Avenue; Hudson Place, and Anson Street.

There are some from outside the city. These are probably people who were in the city shopping and signed the petition. One is from White City, which is east of the city; the other is Rouleau, which is about 30 miles south of the city. These people have asked the provincial government not to proceed with the PST without seeking a proper mandate. If I have the co-operation of the page, I'll table that petition.

Still basically in Saskatoon — in Regina, rather, I have another petition of some 20 names of people who ask the provincial government to stop the provincial GST without the proper mandate. This is going to take a little less time,

Mr. Speaker. These people just simply put as an address, Regina. So one has to assume it is the city of Regina.

There is one exception and that is someone from Pilot Butte, a small community some 10 to 15 miles — well I guess not all that small, growing actually — a bedroom community some 10 to 15 miles east of Regina. They've signed this petition asking the provincial government to seek a proper mandate before they proceed with the PST. If I have the co-operation of the page, I'll table that. Thank you.

From Regina, Mr. Speaker, we go back to Saskatoon again. The petition is in the same form. In summary, they are asking the provincial government not to proceed with the PST until after a provincial election.

Again it appears to be different parts of Saskatoon. Conn Avenue, 8th Street East, Pembina, East Drive, Arlington, Melrose, 33rd Street West, Louise Street, East Centre, Louise Street, Kingsmere Boulevard, Montreal. Oh, this is from Regina. Somehow or other, a Regina name is inserted here from Montreal Street in Regina.

The next name is from a place that . . . I thought I would recognize any community in Saskatchewan after 16 years in provincial politics, but I've never heard of Saskap, R.R. 5. Ah, it's an abbreviation for Saskatoon. R.R. 5, Saskatoon. Louise Crescent, and five more from Saskatoon. These people have asked that the provincial government not proceed without a mandate.

This one, Mr. Speaker, is entirely from the Regina district by all appearances. I may be surprised as I go through it but I think that's accurate. This is some 20 people who have signed this petition in the same form asking the provincial government not proceed with the PST prior to an election. They come from all parts of Regina as has been the case here.

It's evident, Mr. Speaker, without getting debate, it's evident that what is happening is that places of business are getting customers to sign these as they come in, so we have an interesting case here of businesses working with their customers for a common aim.

These people are from 2600 block 12th Avenue, 2600 block Argyle Street, 2600 block Argyle — same one. Courtney, Glen Elm Trailer Court, Broad Street, one from out of town that I'll come back to, Rae Street, from the 100 block Hamilton, from Cook Crescent, from Froom Crescent, from my own constituency, 1800 block St. John Street, 6 Shaw Street — that's an apartment so I won't give the apartment number — Champ Crescent, Glen Elm Trailer Court, Spooner Drive, something called Little Bay. Also in addition, one from Davin, Saskatchewan, a community of . . . a very pleasant community about 50 miles, 40 miles east of Regina.

These people from — I think we've covered seven or eight constituencies in Regina — get together, signed this petition in unison, asking the provincial government not to proceed until it has got a proper mandate in an election. I'll ask this page to table that for me.

I will not be very much longer, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps a

couple more and then I'll cede the place here. These are all from Saskatoon actually and district, I guess one would have to add. Some 20 people who have joined in a petition asking the provincial government to stop the PST before they seek a proper mandate. From Harvard Crescent, Eastview, Quance, Saskatchewan Crescent, Heritage Lane, Tait Place, Avenue A North, Rita Crescent, King Crescent — it seems every community in Saskatchewan has a King Street or a King Crescent — Easthill, Mulcaster Crescent, Avenue U North, Avenue U South, Preston, Ewart, and Louise Avenue. There's also some from . . . one from . . . Well I guess I wouldn't describe either of these as a Saskatoon district. Another one is from Allan, Saskatchewan and yet another one from Kelliher, Saskatchewan.

These are people, Mr. Speaker, who've got together, joined together to ask the provincial government to seek a proper mandate before increasing this very substantial tax.

I have another form of petition, Mr. Speaker, which I think is in order. I'm going to read it and I guess I will be advised in due course at some future sitting as to whether or not in fact it is in order. I think it is, but it's entirely different.

The body of it reads:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that the Honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to refuse to extend the PST to goods and services which have not previously been subject to the tax. And as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray.

So I think that's in order.

What we're finding from these petitions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the public are preparing their own petitions in their own wording, and in some cases they understand that a certain format must be followed. So what we have is in anger terms, I guess, is sort of a case of spontaneous combustion.

These people are all from Saskatoon: from Macklem Drive, from Davidson Crescent, Avenue X North — I guess there is such a place — Devonshire Way.

**An Hon. Member:** — That's Westmount.

**Mr. Shillington:** — That's Westmount, I'm told. I thank the hon. member from Westmount for that advice. From MacDonald road, McPherson Avenue, the next one's absolutely illegible, and from Avenue I South.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll discontinue reading these petitions. There are many more but I know other members are anxious to present petitions and to speak on behalf of people who have come to them. So I'll cede my place with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, Hear!

**PRESENTING PETITIONS (continued)**

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise pursuant to rule 11 to present a petition to the Assembly on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan. And the petitioners that I have here are concerned that the provincial government does not have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to impose the major tax increase which would result from its proposed provincial GST.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have had an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the petitioners that I have here are from many places in the province, including Regina, Balgonie, Kindersley, White City and other areas. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I lay this on the Table.

I would also like to lay on the Table another group of names who are also opposed, the same as the other petitioners were, Mr. Speaker, and they also come from a wide range of communities in the province of Saskatchewan, and they are showing their concern by filling out these petitions.

And they come from a number of communities also, including Abernethy, Lintlaw, White City, Wolseley, and Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Mr. Muirhead:** — I would like leave to introduce students, please.

Leave granted.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Mr. Muirhead:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure to introduce to you and to members of the Assembly, 52 students, grade 3, 4, and 5, 6 from Kenaston School, Kenaston, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate the Kenaston School. I've been their MLA for 13 years, and there's hardly ever been a year in those 13 years that they haven't made a tour to the Assembly. So they must like something here, what goes on here, or maybe just the visits we have, or what they see. There's not too much going on here right now, just reading the petitions.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'll have an enjoyable time with them after they leave the Assembly. We're going to have pictures, a little talk together. And they are joined together today, Mr. Speaker, by their teachers, Michael Hertz, Yvonne Schmid, Susan Bunga. And their chaperons are Idelle Westman, Karen Bloomfield, and the bus driver is Ken O'Dell. I'd like all members of the Assembly to please join with me in thanking them to come to the Assembly today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thompson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When I was closing off, I had a petition that I wanted to lay on the Table. And as I indicated, the petitioners were from Regina, Wolseley, White City, Lintlaw, and Abernethy.

I also want to lay on the Table another petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from another group of individuals who have also signed a petition. And this group of individuals come from many areas of the city of Regina — Dewdney Avenue, and Regina south, Regina north, and also from Whitewood. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would also like to lay this petition on the Table.

I also have another petition that I want to lay on the Table, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is another large group of Saskatchewan citizens who are also expressing their concerns. And they come from such areas as Craven, Semans, and Balgonie. I lay that on the Table, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also want to lay on the Table another petition, and this is a group of citizens from different areas of southern Saskatchewan. And I see from Moose Jaw, Lillooet Street; and I also see some names on here from Caronport, Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I also want to lay this petition on the Table.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1530)

**Mr. Thompson:** — I also have here another petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I also want to table. And this is another group of petitioners signing this petition and they come from R.R. 3, Saskatoon, and also from the city of Saskatoon. I'd like to lay this on the Table, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have here another 20-some names, petitioners who I want to also lay on the Table, coming from areas of Moose Jaw South, Moose Jaw North, and other areas of the city of Moose Jaw, also expressing their concerns by signing this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also have another petition here and it is also from the city of Moose Jaw. And I see some of the street numbers here, High Street — yes I believe it's High Street — and Grandview Street. And this group of petitioners here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are all from the city of Moose Jaw. And I would like to lay this petition on the Table also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another group of petitioners here that have signed their names to the petition and I also want to table. And they come from the city of Regina in such areas as Forsyth Crescent, Lorne Place, Cornwall Street, Fulton Drive, Molloy Road, and Lorne Street. And these are all from the city of Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I now want to lay this petition on the Table.

I also have another petition here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with a number of names, and they come from a large area of the city of Regina. And I see areas in here of Pasqua Street, Castle Road, and Killarney Way, and they're all

from the city of Regina. And I would also like to table this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also now want to table another bunch of names that I have here, a group of citizens who have signed the petition, and they come from areas of the city of Regina, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I see Dufferin Road in Regina, and there's a number of others, Durham Drive and Shannon Road, all in the city of Regina. And they have all signed this petition and I would also like to lay this petition on the Table.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I now want to table another petition signed by 20-some citizens of the province of Saskatchewan who are also opposed to the PST tax. The citizens who have signed this petition come from the city of Prince Albert and they come from Yellow Creek, Saskatchewan. There is a large number here and they have also shown their . . . indicated that they are opposed to the tax by signing this petition. And I now want to table this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I also want to table another petition signed by a group of Saskatchewan citizens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and in this petition the big majority of them come from the city of Regina. And I see Cambridge Avenue, King Street, Eastview, Dewdney. And there are also individual citizens who have signed here from White City. I now want to lay this petition on the Table.

Also want to take this opportunity to lay on the Table another petition of petitioners who are also opposed to the provincial PST. And they come from areas of Regina and I just want to give you some of the addresses. There's Dewdney and Brook Bay. And there's also individuals who have signed this petition and they come from the town of Simpson, Balgonie, and Lipton. I now want to lay this petition also on the Table.

I now also want to lay, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the Table, another number of petitioners who have signed this petition. And they come from areas of Regina. I see Fleet Street, Francis, Avon Drive, and also there are individuals on this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, who have signed it and they are from White City. And I want to lay this petition on the Table.

I have another petition here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that has been signed by a number of petitioners from a number of communities in the province, as I indicated before, all opposed to the provincial PST. And they come from such areas as Balgonie, Balcarres, Regina, Craven, and Lumsden. I now want to lay this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the Table.

I have another petition here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I want to lay on the Table. And it is a petition signed by citizens of the city of Regina. And I see there's Rae Street and MacKenzie Drive, I believe, in Regina. I now want to table this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I now also want to lay on the Table another petition, and this petition is signed by citizens of Regina, who as I indicated before, are also expressing their concerns about the PST by signing the petition that I now want to lay on the Table. And they come from such

areas as Bennett Drive, and I see there's from the town Findlater, and Cameron Street in the city of Regina. And I now want to lay this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the Table.

I have another petition here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, signed by a number of citizens from the city of Regina, and I see Hammond Road and Montague Street. And these are all citizens of the city of Regina. I now want to lay this petition on the Table.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition here by a number of petitioners who have also signed expressing their concern with the legislation that we are dealing with, and they come from such areas as White City, Esterhazy, and from the city of Regina. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to also lay this petition on the Table.

Mr. Speaker, I have another petition here. And I am just about through, and so I just have a few more petitions that I would like to lay on the Table. The one that I have here in particular is from a large number of communities around southern Saskatchewan. I see that there are petitioners here from Kronau, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, and Gainsborough. And I would also like to lay this petition on the Table, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I only have a couple more to lay on the Table and I will be finished.

The ones that I have here that I want to lay on the Table are petitioners who have signed this petition, and they come from such areas as Melfort and Goodeve and Hudson Bay. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to lay this petition also on the Table.

I have another petition here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this one is from the city of Regina and such areas as Halifax Street, Montreal Street, Retallack Street. And I would also like to lay this petition on the Table, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This is the last one that I have to lay on the Table, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's signed by a number of Saskatchewan citizens who are also expressing their concerns with the provincial PST. This petition that I have here is mainly all from the city of Regina. I see Rothwell Crescent and Pappas Crescent.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to now lay this final document that I'm presenting today on the Table. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

(1545)

**Mr. Prebble:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, pursuant to rule 11, I'm very pleased to present a series of petitions on behalf of residents in my own constituency of Saskatoon University expressing opposition to the expanded PST or provincial GST, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

These residents are saying that the provincial government does not have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to impose the major tax increase represented by the provincial GST and they are asking the Legislative Assembly to stop the provincial GST at least until the people of the province have had an opportunity to pass judgement on it during a provincial election.

Mr. Speaker, the first petition that I'm pleased to present is from 23 residents, all of whom live on Simon Fraser Crescent in my constituency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a second petition with the same prayer, this time from residents on Weir Crescent. And on behalf of these residents I'm pleased to present this second petition to the Legislative Assembly.

I have a third petition once again expressing opposition to the provincial GST, this time signed by 10 residents of Kirk Crescent in my constituency and 15 residents of Quance Avenue in Saskatoon University riding. And on their behalf I present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have a fourth petition expressing opposition to the provincial GST, this time signed by 12 residents of Carleton Drive and a resident from McGill Street in my riding.

Mr. Speaker, I have another petition in opposition to the provincial GST. This one is signed again by several people from Carleton Drive, also four residents of Argyle Avenue, eight residents of Preston Avenue, and seven residents of Rutter Crescent in my constituency. And on behalf of these residents I present this petition to the Assembly.

I have here another petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, expressing opposition to the GST, signed by seven of my constituents who reside on Copland Crescent in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I have here another 20 signatures on a petition from residents of Carleton Drive in my riding expressing opposition to the provincial GST and asking that it be dropped, at least until such time as a provincial election has been held.

And I have here a ninth petition from residents of my riding, again with the same prayer, Mr. Speaker. Eighteen of these signatories are from Garrison Crescent and three are from Leslie Avenue in my constituency.

Another petition here. This one again expressing opposition to the provincial GST signed by 15 of my constituents who live on Cumberland Avenue South, eight of my constituents who live on 14th Street East, and eight of my constituents who live on Lake Crescent. And on their behalf, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

I have another petition, again with the same mandate. This one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is signed by 22 residents from Lake Crescent, three from Bate Crescent, and three from Leslie Avenue, once again asking the legislature for the provincial GST to be dropped.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have here another petition from residents of my riding. This time some 25 signatories from Brevoort Park and College Park asking me on their behalf to present to the legislature this petition expressing their strong opposition to the provincial GST.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, just in the last 10 days alone I've presented now over a thousand signatures just from my own riding of people opposed to this unfair tax. But I have in addition to my own constituents, I have petitions here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from a number of other Saskatchewan residents also urging the provincial government to stop the provincial GST. These petitioners are from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan — 20 petitioners who've signed this petition asking that the GST be stopped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition again with the same mandate, this time signed by a variety of Regina residents. They're from Dewdney Avenue, Grey Street, Harvey Street, Royal Street, Ritter Avenue, King Street, Princess Street, Garnet Street, Smith Street, Paynter Crescent, and Victoria Avenue and Osler Street in the city of Regina. And on their behalf I present this petition to the Assembly.

Likewise, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition from Regina residents in opposition to the provincial GST signed by residents of Hird Crescent, Helmsing Street, Duncan Crescent, Alport Crescent, Bannister Bay, Hancock Bay, King Street, Princess Street, Houston Road, Rupert Street, MacKay Street, White City, McDonald Street, and Rae Street from the city of Regina, again expressing their opposition to the provincial GST.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition signed by residents of Moosomin, Francis, Rouleau, and 14 signatures from Regina, again with the same mandate opposing the provincial GST. And on their behalf I'm pleased to present this petition to the Assembly.

I have another petition here in opposition to the GST, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this time signed by residents of Lumsden, Regina, and Weyburn, Saskatchewan, urging that the GST at least not be implemented until a provincial election is held.

I have another group of Saskatchewan residents who are exercising their right to petition the legislature, Mr. Deputy Speaker. These are from Moose Jaw. They're from 2nd Avenue, 7th Avenue, Grafton Avenue, Bluebell Crescent, Clifton Street, Arrowhead Road, and Coteau Street West and Main Street North. And all of these residents, some 20 signatories are expressing their opposition to this major tax increase, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I have another petition with the same mandate signed by residents of Lafleche, and also Simcoe Street, 4th Avenue South West, and Lillooet Avenue West in Moose Jaw. And on behalf of these petitioners, I'm pleased to present this petition to the Assembly opposing the provincial GST.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have here another petition, again with the same mandate, signed by residents of Edgar

Street, Elliott Street, and Lindsay Street in Regina, expressing their opposition to the tax. And on their behalf I'm pleased to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

I have another petition here in opposition again to the provincial GST. This one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is signed by residents of Rockglen and Ituna, Saskatchewan. And also, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of residents from Lacon Street in Regina who've signed this and from Dewdney Avenue and Bond Street in Regina, expressing their opposition to the tax.

I have here a petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker, signed by a number of residents from Middleton Crescent — I assume that's in Regina, though I'm not certain — once again with the same mandate, the same prayer on the petition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased on behalf of residents of Regina from Olson Place, Shannon Road, Toronto Street North, Garnet Street, King Street, Cornwall Street, and Dryburgh Avenue, and Tremaine Avenue to present this petition opposing the provincial GST.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition here, again with the same prayer, signed by residents of Trudelle Crescent and Lindsay Street, Regina, asking that the provincial GST not be implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have here another petition that appears to be largely although not exclusively signed by Regina residents. They include the signatories from Regent Street, Avonhurst Drive, Retallack Street, Montague Avenue, Cameron Street, Lawson Avenue, and Shore Bay, expressing their opposition to the tax increase, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another petition, again with the same mandate. This one has been signed by residents of Rothwell Street in Regina, Pilot Butte, Portland . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd like to draw your attention to a point of order. It was on May 17, 1991, the Speaker of the House had stated, "Order. Yesterday. . ." If I can read into the record:

Order. Yesterday I was moved to invoke a parliamentary usage of the House of Commons which allows hon. members to rise once each day to present petitions. The reason, as you recall, I invoked that usage of the House of Commons was because I felt that hon. members were rising over and over presenting the same petition. And by doing so, they were unduly using up the time of the House.

Today, today while hon. members it is true are rising once, they are once more presenting the same petition over and over, like petitions. I have listened to two members who have presented the same petition, like prayers, over and over. And the third member is now, after having listened to two of hers, seems to be doing the same thing.

Therefore I'm asking members to do the following: that they present all like petitions at one time, all like petitions. If they have the same prayer, to present them all at one time. If you have a petition with a different subject matter, that's another issue. But if all like petitions, I am asking you to present them at one time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that likeness has been an occurrence this afternoon. And we've all witnessed that now for almost two and a half hours. And I would like you to rule . . . and I would like my privilege as a member to be upheld in this Legislative Assembly so that I too may once again be able to see this Assembly come back to some order and I would have my right given back to me as a private member, the privilege of being able to carry on my representation of minority and majority individuals from my riding of the Cut Knife-Lloydminster constituency.

Mr. Speaker, I as a private member do not have any rights in this Assembly any longer. And I feel that it's up to the Chair to impose upon this Assembly some guidance and to bring it back to an order where we can all function as private members in this Assembly.

I'm asking you, sir, to consider what the words were read into the record by the Speaker on May 17, and I beg your indulgence and to please make this ruling stick.

(1600)

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to take a moment to respond to the member from Cut Knife-Lloyd's point of order. I'd like to say, in reply to the point of order, that the members here have been following the ruling made by Mr. Speaker on May 16 — I believe it was May 16. At that time he clearly indicated that each member could rise once a day to present petitions, and I think we've been following that very closely since that day.

I believe we've been presenting petitions for four days since then, and the Speaker, who has obviously observed what has been taking place here for a number of days, has concluded that his ruling is being followed.

And I think that the right of members to present petitions is not a new phenomena; it's been going on for decades, if not centuries. And in fact the members opposite, colleagues in Ontario I think at this very time are presenting large numbers of petitions from people in Ontario who are opposed to the deficit being run in that province.

And I may not agree with those people who are petitioning the Government of Ontario on that issue, but it's certainly their right under the rules of that Assembly and the rules under this Assembly that members, pursuant to rule 11, can rise and present petitions.

And of course you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the reason for petitions is to allow the public to be represented here in the House. And there are those who would argue we should even go further than that. That when it comes to issues like this, and I know the Reform Party, many members of the Reform Party would argue

that not only should people be able to send petitions to the members, but like city council and other governments, could actually come to this Assembly and not only sign a statement, but come to the bar and argue against the tax. And this happens in city council, as you'll know that the delegations come and they actually speak directly to the Assembly.

And I'm not arguing for that today, but the petitions represent all of those folks who have taken the time and energy to sign the petition.

And members opposite, the government who is trying to limit debate on Bill 61 and now trying to limit petitions, I say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are the ones who are being obstructionist to the very people who want to petition the members of this Assembly.

Now this is a very, very important democratic process, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Obviously the government has the right to introduce Bills and they have done that. And they have the right to introduce closure as the rules clearly state. But I want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. I think the member should keep his comments to the point of order, not to legislation that's before the House.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — The petitions that we have been referring to, Mr. Speaker, the Bill that I'm referring to obviously apply to the Bill that's referred to in the petition that is being presented. And I want to make it clear that I'm very much on the point of order of the petitions that are being presented that deal with the opposition.

And I want to just read that prayer so we're clear on what it is that we're dealing with:

That the Provincial Government does not have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to impose the major tax increase which would result from the proposed provincial GST.

And I want to say clearly that members in the opposition have been rising once a day pursuant to the ruling of the Speaker, which the member opposite clearly disagrees with. But if that right is taken away, that members can rise and present petitions, then a century-old tradition of people being allowed to sign a prayer to the Assembly to petition the members of the Assembly would be done away with.

I want to speak to that issue of the rights of people to petition the members of the Assembly. The rules are very clear in the book that this Assembly works on and the rules that we work under, that we are allowed to present petitions.

And I want to say that I would really say to the members opposite that the fact that we are getting now in the area of a hundred thousand names on these petitions, if not over that by tonight — my colleague from Saskatoon says we're now over a hundred thousand, and we have probably another 30,000 waiting to be presented — indicates to you the outrage that there is in this province against a government in the dying days of its mandate,

introducing a Bill like this that would take over \$400 million . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. The point of order before the Assembly is the right to present petitions or not present petitions, but not the content of the petitions. So I'd ask the member to keep his comments on the point of order.

**Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Well I just wanted to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in closing that the right of members to petition is a very ancient and very accepted procedure. And I find it surprising and shocking that government members would continually attempt to interrupt the presenting of this petition to the extent of rising day after day and attempting to cut off the presentations of petitions.

But I'm sure that the ruling given by Mr. Speaker on May 16 would clearly indicate that we're well with order. And I'm sure you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will find that as well.

**Mr. Shillington:** — Thank you very much. I want to make one additional comment in addition to the comments made by the member from Regina Elphinstone, which I endorse. I want to make an additional comment and that is about the propriety of you yourself dealing with this issue. I do so because yesterday the Government House Leader rose in his place and the gravamen of his comment was, as I now understand it, was that the form . . . the manner in which the petitions were being presented were obstructionist and therefore an abusive process. And as a result he had a right to move to do something quite unusual — move a superseding motion in routine proceedings.

Mr. Speaker took that matter under consideration and has not yet rendered a decision. I want to say in defence of Mr. Speaker's position, the Speaker in Ontario has done exactly the same thing. He in fact . . . I gather he has said he won't render a decision until next week. He's been at it for two weeks, so there is some precedent for the Speaker's position.

But the Speaker has taken the very issue which the member from Lloydminster, Cut Knife-Lloyd, raised, he's taken it under consideration. For you now to deal with the same thing, you're dealing with an issue which the Speaker has under consideration, and I suggest it's not appropriate.

I just want to say with respect if you should find it not to be an adequate reason — I think that's determinative — I think you should simply tell the hon. member that the matter is already under consideration, Mr. Speaker. If you find it . . . If you don't find that, I'd ask you to consider something else.

These are general comments, but I will keep them brief.

What we are witnessing in this country is a ground swell of opposition by the public to impotent legislatures. What we have in Ontario is a Finance minister who tried to present a budget speech 10 days ago — still hasn't got it because the opposition Conservative and Liberal members in the Ontario House are blocking the delivery of the budget speech.



If you just be patient. I said I wouldn't be long, but I do think it's relevant.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I'd ask the member for Moose Jaw North to allow the member for Regina Centre to make his comments without interruption.

**Mr. Shillington:** — I appreciate your ruling. I appreciate your ruling. One sees . . . and again I will be brief, but I want to make this comment because I think it's really fundamental.

What we see in Ontario is an opposition, apparently with the consent of the public, stopping the government from presenting one of its fundamental acts, the budget speech. What we see is the Reform Party in western Canada and now indeed throughout Canada, finding ways so that the public can directly participate in the process of the legislature. That's what they're doing. They're getting the public into this building participating.

I say to Mr. Speaker and to members opposite, we had better be cognizant of that ground swell of public opposition. We have here as well an opposition which by all accounts with the consent of the public is stopping the government from doing something they don't want done.

What we have, Mr. Speaker, is a ground swell of public opposition to the treatment of legislatures as an impotent institution. What the public in Ontario are saying, what the public in Saskatchewan are saying, and what the Reform Party has understood, is the public want legislatures to play a meaningful role in the business of government. And when the legislatures represent real public opposition, they ought to have the mechanism to do so.

At the moment, Mr. Speaker, the only mechanism which is available to this opposition is petitions. If the closure motion is withdrawn, then of course there's a new . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. The petitions are the question. The point of order is on the petitions and not on the content of the petitions.

**Mr. Shillington:** — I was about to conclude, Mr. Speaker. I was about to conclude. I didn't want to go on long.

I do want to make the point that across this country we are witnessing by the public a real anger and opposition to governments which flout public opinion and which do not permit legislatures adequate opportunity to bring public opinion to bear on the business of the day. That's what's going on in Ontario; it's what's going on here; it's what the Reform Party sense and have picked up on.

I say to members opposite and to Mr. Speaker, you interfere and you ignore public opinion on this very basic issue at your peril. You may or may not get away with it this time. But if you ignore public opinion on the issue of the rights of legislatures to exercise some accountability in government, there's going to be a real day of reckoning at, I suggest, not too distant future.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. Order. I've listened to arguments from both sides of the House. And being that the point of order is somewhat similar to the one yesterday, it's under consideration of the Speaker and I feel that that should be brought in by the Speaker. And with that . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased to present another petition in opposition to the provincial GST. I won't repeat the prayer, but it's the same prayer as the ones I was presenting prior to the point of order being called.

This one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is signed by residents from Pleasantdale; from Melfort, Saskatchewan; from St. Brieux; and from Tisdale, and one signature from Saskatoon. There are about 15 signatures on here from Melfort, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I have another petition with the same prayer. This one is from residents both of my constituency and the constituency of Saskatoon Eastview — 25 signatories from Preston Avenue in Saskatoon expressing their opposition to the provincial GST.

I have a third . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Hopfner:** — A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have accepted your first ruling, but as a private member of this Assembly from the member from Cut Knife-Lloydminster and with my privileges taken from me in this Assembly, I am petitioning the Speaker of this House to bring a ruling into this Assembly, sir, so that my rights are allowed to come back into this Assembly.

I want to indicate to you, sir, that my rights have been invoked upon by a bunch of radical members of the opposition, and I have . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. It's difficult to hear the member when other members are interfering with the proceedings of the House.

(1615)

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I have no rights as a member any longer in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have for some time now have happened to be sitting in this Assembly to keep quorum in this Assembly to help play part . . . take part in this Assembly to help keep quorum in here.

And, Mr. Speaker, when members are getting phone calls from their constituents and are having to represent constituents or having to represent them through different departments in the government, it takes time for me as the Government Whip to allow members of this side of the House time to leave to do their work to represent their

constituents.

Mr. Speaker, that right has been taken away. I am having to keep my people here at close proximity to the legislature while members of the opposition carry on with petitions. And otherwise what they've done in the past, Mr. Speaker, as soon as there's not enough members on this side of the House to keep the quorum, they call quorum and the House is adjourned.

Mr. Speaker, there is a complete failure of any kind of a ruling of a type of a decorum in this Assembly. And I think it is time, Mr. Speaker, that that decorum comes back into here. Otherwise I as a member am isolated from being able to do anything on behalf of my constituents, be it the minority or majority of whatever the members opposite talk. I don't understand how the Chair can possibly say that they're not going to bring that kind of decorum back into this Assembly.

How does one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how does one as a member analyse himself in his daily routine in saying I represented my constituents? I can't return phone calls. I can't do constituency work any longer because I have to sit here and listen to petitions that could be laid on the Table at one time and we could be getting . . . carry on with the traditional . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order, order. I have already ruled on the question of the petitions, so I don't think that that need to be brought up. It's under consideration by the Speaker and the Speaker will bring in his ruling in due course.

**Mr. Hopfner:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm not rising in regards to the petition, I'm rising in regards to my privilege as a private member of this Assembly. My privilege is not . . . I have no privilege any longer, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's been taken from me. And I am petitioning the Chair to give that privilege back to me as a member so I can duly carry on the duties that I have been elected for and that has been representing the people of my riding, be it the minority or the majority in my riding which I do represent.

I represent people from all political stripes, be it Reform, NDP (New Democratic Party), Liberal, or Tory. I represent them, Mr. Speaker, as they call upon me to act on their behalf. And that privilege has been taken away from me, sir.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to make a few remarks briefly on the comments of the member opposite who should not feel restricted from going and making a phone call, if he wishes, because there are plenty of members on the opposite side there who can be here and take part in the debate and listen to the petitions being presented. That's not the problem here, Mr. Speaker.

If the member's opposite arguments were to be upheld, they are contrary totally to what the government opposite is attempting to do. If the government opposite invokes closure on this Bill, the right of that member is restricted to speak in this debate in the same way as the members of this House will be restricted to speak in this debate, Mr.

Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — And I think it's important for the member opposite to consider that in the remarks that he makes on his comments. If he is so concerned about the need for members to speak to represent the views of the people of this province on this very important issue, his first and foremost obligation should be to speak to his House Leader, to speak to his Premier and insist that this motion for closure be rescinded so that the debate on this Bill could continue.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the ruling of the Speaker of several days ago was very clear. The ruling was that members of the House could not rise time after time after time and present petitions. Some people will disagree with that ruling, but that is the ruling which has been accepted, and we accept the ruling of the Speaker.

And so therefore the new process which is being followed is that members are rising in their places and they are presenting petitions, and not several times on the same day, but on one occasion. That's been the established practice for the last several days and it's been working very well and it seems to have been quite acceptable.

Now I agree with what you have just said earlier, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it was a good and important point to make — that the Speaker in his wisdom earlier today, because of what occurred yesterday, said that he needed the time, as you said, to deliberate on and . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. The member from Moose Jaw North keeps interrupting members that are on their feet, and I will warn him for the last time that if he is going to try and disrupt the legislature in this manner . . . And this is the last warning you'll get today.

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — Before I was interrupted, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Speaker said that he needed the time to consider, because of the complexity of the events that took place yesterday, what his ruling should be. And I think that that's really quite appropriate. And the Speaker has our full support in his decision to do that which you confirmed here today.

It should be remembered by all of us, every member in this House, Mr. Speaker, that the first and foremost right that exists in this Assembly is not the right of individual members as much as it is the right of the citizens of this province to be heard. That's the first and foremost right.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Tchorzewski:** — From time to time we may talk about privilege. But it is the privilege and the right of citizens to be able to express their opinion, and the only way that they can express their opinion is through the debates in this House, which is being restricted, or through petitions, and that's being done. And the member is — whatever it is he is trying to do would lead, if he was to be upheld, to

the restriction of that right of citizens to be able to present their petitions.

This Legislative Assembly isn't here to serve the members. We're here to serve the people who elected us through this Legislative Assembly. It is here to serve the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and their rights should not be restricted.

The member's point of order, and now he calls it privilege, flies in the face of the three very fundamental things that need to be considered here.

First of all, it flies in the face of the ruling which the Speaker made earlier and it flies in the face of the comment that Mr. Speaker made here this afternoon in which he said he needed time to consider the situation. Secondly, it flies in the face of citizens to petition this legislature and to be heard. And thirdly, it's contrary to the very fundamental right of freedom of speech.

Now if we lose that, Mr. Speaker, as members or as citizens through petitions, then the very fundamental basis upon which the democratic parliamentary system of government is based is destroyed.

And so I simply say, Mr. Speaker, that the member's opposite point of order or privilege is out of order. And I concur with your earlier ruling that the Speaker said this afternoon he wanted time to consider the motions of yesterday and the discussions of yesterday and he ought to be given the time to do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I have again listened to both sides and I find the point of order not well taken because it's under consideration of the Speaker and he will be in with a ruling in due course.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased on behalf of a number of residents from Saskatoon University constituency to present another petition in opposition to the expanded 7 per cent PST. Mr. Deputy Speaker, these petitioners are from both College Park, East College Park, and Brevoort Park in my constituency. And on their behalf I'm pleased to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

Likewise, Mr. Speaker, I have another petition with the same prayer in opposition to the PST from residents in Greystone Heights and Grosvenor Park in my riding. And on their behalf I'm pleased to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have one final petition to present this afternoon. This one, sir, has a different prayer so I would just like to briefly summarize it. It is in opposition to the tax on books, magazines, and newspapers, and it specifically objects to the tax on reading as a tax on knowledge and information which the petitioners believe is detrimental to our society. The petitioners are asking that the provincial government reverse its decision to impose the unfair tax on reading.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these petitioners are from both my constituency and also residents in Saskatoon Eastview. And I see that there are two or three petitioners from Regina who've also signed this petition, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And on behalf of these residents of Saskatchewan, I'm very honoured to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much, sir.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise also pursuant to rule 11 to present petitions to this Assembly. My understanding is that I have this right to do this during routine proceedings and I have petitions regarding the goods and services tax.

The prayer in this petition is:

... that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the provincial government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this petition that I'm presenting now comes from the city of Moose Jaw. It represents a number of people who live on King Crescent, Normandy Drive, Simcoe Street, 5th Avenue North West, Hopkins Crescent, Grace Street, 2nd Avenue North East, Moose Jaw. Some of these are senior citizens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they are as I said, urging the government to stop the provincial GST. I present this petition on their behalf.

I have another petition. This one also from the city of Moose Jaw, from streets like Wolfe, from Coteau Street, Atha Street West, Grandview, 8th Avenue North West, Iroquois Street West, 9th Avenue North West, Alder Avenue, 11th Avenue North West, Ominica Street East — many constituents who are concerned about the GST and have asked us to present these petitions in the legislature. So I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf today.

(1630)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, as required I have signed this petition to indicate that it's been accepted by a member of the legislature. This is another petition with the same prayer regarding urging the provincial government to stop the provincial GST. This petition also comes from the city of Moose Jaw, and the people who have signed it all live on Connaught Avenue, except one person from Saskatchewan Street West.

I'm sure that many of these citizens from Moose Jaw are seniors, and as the senior critic, I am pleased to present the petitions from Moose Jaw. I know they're concerned about this provincial sales tax.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have another

petition with the same prayer urging the government to stop the provincial GST. And this petition that I'm bringing in now comes from the city of Prince Albert. There are people who've signed it who live also in Emma Lake, Saskatchewan; Frankslake, Saskatchewan; Birch Hills, Saskatchewan; and there's one signature on this petition from Regina, Saskatchewan. So all around the province people are concerned about this petition, have asked me to present it to you on their behalf. I'm pleased to sign it, and I present it to the Legislative Assembly.

Another petition, Mr. Speaker, from Prince Albert, also the same prayer urging the provincial government to stop the provincial goods and services tax. This is a petition from people living on 3rd Street East, on River Street East, on 15th Street West, on 25th Street East in Prince Albert, 15th Avenue, Kemp Crescent in Prince Albert, 8th Street East, Helm Crescent, 14th Street West, and 21st Street East. So from all around the city of Prince Albert, a petition with 20 names on it opposing the goods and services tax.

And, Mr. Speaker, another petition from Prince Albert — some of the same streets but many different streets; many, many people who are praying that the Honourable Assembly will urge the provincial government to stop the provincial GST. And so on their behalf I exercise my right to present this petition and to urge the Honourable Assembly to listen to the voice of the people of the province.

The people on this petition from Prince Albert come from 22nd Street East, from Johnson Court, from 14th Street West; from R.R. 3 in Prince Albert, which is out in the rural areas; from McLellan Crescent, and from 6th Avenue West. A full petition of 20 signatures of people opposed to the provincial sales tax.

Now this petition that I present now, Mr. Speaker, is also 20 signatures of people opposed to the goods and services tax, asking a member of the legislature to present this petition on their behalf. The people on this petition live in Meath Park, Saskatchewan; Weirsdale; a number of people from Choiceland, Saskatchewan — in fact, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight of the signatures are from Choiceland. Snowden, Saskatchewan; four from Mair; from Smeaton; and from Prince Albert itself. Again 20 more people opposed to the provincial goods and services tax. And I'm pleased as a member of this Assembly to present this petition on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, as has been pointed out by my colleagues, these petitions are numerous. We have over 100,000 of them. Here I have another petition with another 20 names on. This petition comes from the city that I'm pleased to represent in the legislature, from Saskatoon.

And I know as I was collecting signatures outside the Midtown Plaza, how concerned the people are about the goods and services tax. It's the same prayer urging the provincial government to stop the provincial GST. All the people on this petition come from Saskatoon except one person who comes from Humboldt, and that person has signed this petition as well.

I'm pleased as a member of the legislature to present this

petition to the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, as it says in rule 11, each one of these petitions shall be signed by a member of the Assembly, and I have signed all these petitions.

Here's another one with 20 signatures on it and this also is a petition from Saskatoon. This is a petition with the same prayer, urging the provincial government to stop the provincial GST until the people of the province have an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election.

And the people on this petition live on Keeley Crescent, McAskill Crescent, Willow Street, Adelaide Street, York Avenue, Victoria Avenue, Calder Crescent, 29th Street, Williams Avenue, Gladmer Park, Melrose Avenue, MacLean Crescent, Broadway Avenue, Hanover Avenue, Melrose, Kelvin, Wilson Crescent, Broadway, and Williams Avenue — 20 signatures of people coming from different streets in the city of Saskatoon. The opposition to the sales tax is very broad and universal.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting another petition. And this one is being presented by me and signed by me on behalf of people who live in other areas of the province. Many of the people on this petition — and again it's 20 signatures — come from the town of Melfort, Saskatchewan. But there are also people from Bellevue, a signature from Saskatoon, one from Wilkie, one from St. Brieux, one from Saskatoon . . . two from Saskatoon on this petition. All of them asking that the provincial government stop the provincial GST. And I'm pleased on their behalf to present this petition to the legislature.

The next petition I have, Mr. Speaker, is also full, 20 signatures, many from the town of Melfort, as was the petition that I just presented, because people all around the province are opposing this tax. People who have signed this one are from Melfort, there's a signature from Prince Albert, there's one from Saskatoon, there's one from Grenfell, Gronlid, but most of them are from Melfort. And on behalf of the people of Melfort who've signed this petition opposing the goods and services tax, I'm pleased to present it for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, this petition that I'm presenting now is from the city of Moose Jaw. Obviously the people in Moose Jaw are very concerned about the goods and services tax, because they have signed this petition with the same prayer on it.

**The Speaker:** — One might tend to want to refer to and repeat the prayer without realizing it, but I'm going to have to draw your attention to it. I'm going to ask you strictly to adhere to that ruling.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, as I present these petitions from the people of Moose Jaw, I do so because I know they are concerned about the issue that we are presenting petitions about, the goods and services tax. I just want to indicate that that's what this petition is about as well.

**The Speaker:** — I have been trying to be quite lenient on this issue of repetition of the prayer, and I believe I have been.

I'm going to just once more bring it to the hon. member's attention that you simply having indicated the prayer, present the petitions without any further debate or reference. Present the petitions. I think the hon. member will agree with me that I can't repeatedly stand up and draw it to your attention. I will simply have to move to another member.

**Ms. Smart:** — Mr. Speaker, the petition that I'm presenting now is the same as the one that I've just presented. This one has also signatures from Moose Jaw, one signature from Saskatoon. And I'm pleased to present this to the Assembly on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, this is another petition from Moose Jaw on the same topic. This one comes from people who live in a variety of streets in Moose Jaw — Hochelaga Street West, Duffield Street West, Brown Crescent in Saskatoon. There's one person from Saskatoon on this petition and one from Assiniboia. The other signatures come from Nettle Place in Moose Jaw, Calypso Drive in Moose Jaw, Ominica Street West in Moose Jaw, Grafton Avenue, Algoma Avenue, Gordon Road. There's a signature here from Spring Valley, Saskatchewan; one from Regina, Saskatchewan; from Michener Drive. From Hall Street West, Vaughan, Iroquois Street West in Moose Jaw, Willow Avenue in Moose Jaw, and one signature from Hearne, Saskatchewan. I'm pleased to present this petition on behalf of those petitioners.

Mr. Speaker, this petition that I'm presenting now on the same topic, the goods and services tax, is from Moose Jaw — mostly the signatures from Moose Jaw; one from Assiniboia, Saskatchewan; and one from Bruno, Saskatchewan. I present this petition on behalf of the petitioners and bring it to the attention of the Legislative Assembly.

And now, Mr. Speaker, this is another petition from Moose Jaw, very concerned people who live on Fairford Street West, Athabasca Street West, Fairford Street East, Grey Avenue, Stad East, Pascoe, POTC Moose Jaw, Carleton Street, 6th North West, Outfield Street, Stad West, Cree Crescent, some with a box office, Outlook Avenue . . . Stadacona, abbreviated to Stad, and some from a box office, and one from Outlook Avenue. A full petition of 20 signatures from the city of Moose Jaw, and I present on behalf of those petitioners.

And another petition from Moose Jaw, from Wellington Drive, from 11th Avenue North West, and one from a box office in Moose Jaw — a petition with three signatures on it. I present this as well on the same topic.

(1645)

Mr. Speaker, the people of Moose Jaw are very concerned about the issue that this petition addresses. It's the same issue as the other petitions. Another 20 signatures, coming from Aster Crescent, Atha West, Fairford Street West, Coteau Street West, Stadacona East, 4th North West, High Street West, a box office in Moose Jaw, Monk Avenue, Athabasca, Selkirk West, Hall Street West, Duffield Street West, 14th Avenue, Grace Street, 1st North West, Ominica East. And, Mr. Speaker, these are

coming from all over the city of Moose Jaw. And on behalf of the petitioners, I'm pleased to present this to the Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have another petition, this one also full, on the same topic, urging the Assembly to pay attention to the people of Saskatchewan who live in Moose Jaw — Gordon Road, Marshall Crescent, Normandy Drive, 9th Avenue South West, and two signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, from Craik, Saskatchewan. So the opposition is beyond . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Arm River constituency.

**Ms. Smart:** — This is Arm River constituency. The others are all from Moose Jaw. And I am pleased to present this petition to the Assembly on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, the people in Moose Jaw are very upset. Here is another petition with 20 names on it, all from the city of Moose Jaw. And as I say, many of them will be seniors who are concerned about the provincial sales tax, the same topic as the other petitions. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this petition to the Assembly on behalf of these people from Moose Jaw.

Mr. Speaker, this petition that I present now comes mostly from the city of Moose Jaw. Bushell Park, Saskatchewan is one signature on here. Albert Street West, 2nd North East, and there's one signature here from Glentworth, Saskatchewan. So I am pleased again to present this petition on behalf of these petitioners, to the Legislative Assembly.

Now another full petition on the same topic, Mr. Speaker — the topic that we've already identified — and I have many petitions to present to you on this topic of the goods and services tax.

This one's from Moose Jaw as well, but there's a signature here from Hearne, Saskatchewan. There are people who come from Main Street in Moose Jaw, Brown Street, Connaught Avenue, Monk Avenue, Hastings Street, many who've signed from Moose Jaw without the street address, but there's also someone from Drinkwater, Brown Street, and one signature on this petition from Coronach, Saskatchewan. I am pleased to present this petition to the Assembly on behalf of the people. And I have signed this petition as well as the others.

Mr. Speaker, another full petition from the city of Moose Jaw. They are very busy opposing the tax and they are very concerned. It's the same topic, the same prayer, the goods and services tax — 20 more signatures from the city of Moose Jaw. They are from businesses and from seniors and from the people in general and families who are hurting. And I am pleased to present this petition to the Legislative Assembly on their behalf.

Here's another petition from the people of Moose Jaw on the same topic, on the goods and services tax. And this petition come from Cartier Avenue, post office boxes, Aster Crescent, Maple Street, Atha East, Grandview, Coteau West, one signature from Todd Lake, 5th Avenue North West, Stadacona West, Daisy Crescent, Iroquois Street West, Arlington Avenue. I present this petition on

behalf of the petitioners from Moose Jaw.

And I present another petition from Moose Jaw — many more signatures from businesses, from the people of Moose Jaw, of all walks of life and all areas of the city, the same prayer regarding the goods and services tax. And I've signed this petition and I'm pleased to present it to the Assembly.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I present a petition from another area of the province. It is on the same topic: the goods and services tax. And this one petition, Mr. Speaker, comes from the town of Estevan.

**An Hon. Member:** — Who represents that?

**Ms. Smart:** — Represented by the Premier of the province, but I'm pleased to present this petition on behalf of the people in Estevan. There's someone here who comes . . . and lives on 1st Street in Estevan, 2nd Street in Estevan, and all the others are just signed Estevan. The people of Estevan, on behalf of them, I present this petition to the Assembly. I've signed it and I'm pleased to present it because of their concern about the goods and services tax.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is another petition from the town of Estevan — more people who are unhappy about the goods and services tax, provincial tax . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Next member.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise pursuant to rule 11 of the Legislative Assembly — the only avenue that we have in Saskatchewan for the people of Saskatchewan to directly communicate concerns to the Legislative Assembly, through rule 11, which sets out the parameters of how people may do that.

The petitions I have all have the same preamble and the same prayer, Mr. Speaker. These people are taking the position that the government does not have a mandate from the people of Saskatchewan to impose a major tax increase which would result from the proposed provincial goods and services tax or provincial sales tax or what is now the education and health tax. And it is for that reason that they're petitioning the Legislative Assembly, and in particular they're saying:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable Assembly may be pleased to urge the Provincial Government to stop the provincial GST (and they're asking us as members of the Legislative Assembly to urge the government to stop the provincial GST) until the people of the province have had an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election. And as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

So in a sense, or to put it plainly, they'd like to see this tax stopped until they've had an opportunity to pass judgement on it in a provincial election, Mr. Speaker.

And this petition that I have before me, from people of Saskatchewan, there are 19 signatures here, sir. And these

people come from the constituencies of the cities of Melville; the town of Ituna; Cupar, Saskatchewan; Goodeve, Saskatchewan; more from Ituna; more from Melville. Here's a couple here from Balcarres, and one person from Hubbard, Saskatchewan. I believe most of these are in the constituency of Melville, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be pleased to present this to the page.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the members opposite are really excited to hear these petitions, but again it's the only opportunity that people have to make their views known. I have a further . . . I believe in this case it's 19 signatures, Mr. Speaker.

These are from Melville, Saskatchewan, and again there's a couple more here from Balcarres, Saskatchewan. And if my sense of geography is correct, Mr. Speaker, I believe that also is in the constituency of Melville. And I'm pleased to present this petition for the people of Melville and area to the members of the Legislative Assembly.

I might say as an aside, I wish I had the opportunity, as I do in debate, to react to heckles from the government members, Mr. Speaker, but I'm mindful that petitions should not engender debate.

I have some more signatures, Mr. Speaker, 20 in total. These are also from the eastern part of the province. They're from the communities of Balcarres, Fort Qu'Appelle, which I know well; Grayson, Saskatchewan; Neudorf, Saskatchewan, which I had the pleasure of visiting not so many months ago; Melville. Again more signatures from Neudorf; and Goodeve, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And it's also my pleasure to present these to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of these people in that part of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I have another 19 names and signatures here, as per the prescribed format for the presenting of petitions. It would appear that all these signatures and names are from the city of Moose Jaw. Some are in the trailer court in Moose Jaw. And there's one here . . . or a couple here from Saskatoon as well; I suppose they were visiting Moose Jaw.

**An Hon. Member:** — Shopping.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Well I'm not sure if they came down for the shopping, why they were there. But in any event, Mr. Speaker, most of these are from Moose Jaw, a couple here from Saskatoon, that I'd like to present to the Legislative Assembly. If I might ask the page to come forward.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I have some more signatures here, not quite 20, which is the normal number on a sheet, but something less than that. But nevertheless, again it appears to be people from Moose Jaw and area — from Montgomery Street, Duffield Street. Oh no, here's one from Massey Road in Regina. Mr. Speaker, there's one from Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, a community that I know well and like a lot. Some more here from Fairford Street, Ominica Street West in Moose Jaw. Again primarily from the Moose Jaw area where people have

been very active in making their views known, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to present this to the page if I might.

Again we have more here from . . . names from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Plus one from Gravelbourg. And I see here one from Eyebrow, Saskatchewan. But also one from Nanaimo, B.C. And I don't know if that's going to invalidate the petition, but there are at least 19 other signatures and names here from Saskatchewan residents, and as I stated from the cities of Moose Jaw, communities of Gravelbourg and Eyebrow, Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I would just say, Mr. Speaker, that I've signed all of these forms in accordance with your direction and the rules of rule 11 which governs the tabling of these petitions in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. It being 5 o'clock, the House stands recessed until 7 p.m.

The Assembly recessed until 7 p.m.