

We have heard this government on many occasions promise time and time again that it would set up a special program to encourage the use of grain alcohol as an octane booster for gasoline.

It took us six years to ban lead, and despite the government's so-called commitment to ethanol and the environmental impact, it allowed MMT, an insidious neurotoxic substance to replace lead in Canadian gasoline.

I am aware of several people who have worked in garages, car dealerships, muffler shops and gasoline bars, and one teacher who taught auto mechanics in a high school in Saskatchewan, who have serious neurological health problems. Two of these people have gone public. Some of our Canadian scientists have been calling and warning of these health effects for several years.

I have documents dated 1990 from medical schools and universities, as well as other institutions outlining in detail the truly horrible effects that allowing the continued use of this neurotoxin can have on the Canadian people.

This insidious substance accumulates in the bodies and the effects may not appear for several years. Because our children—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately, I must interrupt the hon. member. The hon. member for Delta.

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CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to remind members of the House and all Canadians that April is Cancer Month.

In Canada we estimate that over 100,000 new cancer cases will be diagnosed this year and that approximately 50,000 people will die of this disease.

The government is taking steps to change this. In collaboration with the provinces and the Canadian Cancer Society, the Department of National Health and Welfare is working to improve cervical and breast cancer screening programs in Canada. The department is also helping to fund the work of the Cancer 2000 task force "Strategies for Cancer Control in Canada".

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I would like to applaud all those involved in the fight against cancer and their efforts toward reducing the burden of this disease on Canadians. I particularly pay tribute to the Canadian Cancer Society and the work it is doing.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, it is another GST moment. Strange but true, case number two, the youth "tax credit caper".

If you are under 19 years of age and earn under \$30,000, you do not qualify for a GST tax credit, even if you are a non-dependent. The only way the Conservative government will let you have the credit is if you have a child.

Today non-dependent Canadians under 19 can receive unemployment insurance; they can receive welfare; they can vote. But they do not get the same break under this regressive tax as other people do. It is a clear case of discrimination.

The Conservative government's hand is out for a large chunk of taxes from the often small pay cheques of youth, and will gladly accept GST to boot. But a tax credit? Forget it.

Stay tuned, the saga does continue. Coming up, the GST insurance.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, the Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of Canada is a national organization which represents 31 parent support groups from across Canada whose families have children with cancer. The difficulties these families face are enormous, given the emotional, psychological, financial and logistic problems that arise when a child suffers from cancer.

In providing the family support needed as treatments occur for their children, parents must often quit their jobs or take extensive leaves of absence. As presently regulated, these parents are not eligible for unemployment insurance unless they are diagnosed as suffering from extreme emotional distress. This approach has proven itself to be inadequate and potentially detrimental to an employee's career status.