S. O. 31

This particularly horrible manifestation of sexism and racism is all too common in Canada today. It is time for all Canadians to stand and say: "No more of this; not here, not now, not ever".

[Translation]

SOLICITING BY TELEPHONE

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, there are days when one wonders what is happening to society and whether anyone is responsible anymore. Numbered companies, unscrupulous people, invite young people and others to call them by dialing a telephone number starting with 976. And what do they hear? An answering machine that delivers a pornographic and obscene message.

Unfortunately, there is a charge for each call, and parents end up with the bill at the end of the month, dumb founded and powerless to fight the system.

Mr. Speaker, where are Bell Canada's sense of morality and professional ethics, when it allows its telephone lines to be used for pornographic and obscene purposes? How can the CRTC remain oblivious to this situation? While people in a position of authority abuse the trust of our young people, other authorities at Bell Canada and the CRTC continue to wash their hands like Pontius Pilate.

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal senators are at it again, promoting their distorted view of the GST. Their latest drivel which was released to every weekly newspaper in Canada last week indicates their total lack of understanding of the GST or their total disregard of the facts. It is one or the other; probably both.

They should exercise some sensibility but they do not. They continue to run rings of confusion around the Canadian people. They are on the losing end of the GST debate and they cannot accept their fate.

• (1410)

CHILD ABUSE

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the government once again to commission an independent inquiry into the shocking abuses which took place in Canada's residential schools for native children.

Countless numbers of Canada's first peoples faced abuses in schools that were funded by the federal government. Through an inquiry the government will assist the healing process for the victims of this abuse. More and more native children and adults are coming forward to tell their tales of personal abuse while in residential schools and how it still affects their lives.

Why is the government afraid of this inquiry? These victims require this measure of justice.

Therefore I again want to urge the government to commission an independent inquiry into these residential schools. Until we start listening to the victims of abuses that occurred in these schools, the resulting problems will not go away.

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. André Harvey (Chicoutimi): Mr. Speaker, Raymond Garneau, former Quebec Finance Minister and former Liberal Member of Parliament and Finance critic, thinks that the goods and services tax proposed by our government is probably the fairest one that could be found in the present context of global markets.

According to Mr. Garneau, at a time when we have free trade and global markets, we have to get rid of the old tax and replace it with the GST. Mr. Garneau went on to say that the 13.5 per cent tax had become impossible to administer and that it was as full of holes as a sieve. No government had yet been able to find a way to make it watertight. It was too easy to get around by legal means, with the help of expert lawyers. It had to go.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time Liberal senators respected the agenda of a responsible government.