

Also, the U.S. is now learning that its testing regime is both extremely costly and unproductive and is turning to alternate strategies like performance testing and increased supervision.

Why adopt a failing strategy? Is it a smoke-screen to cover his failure to deal with the real dangers to transport safety in Canada, such as overworked and inadequate air traffic control and the consequent closure of airport towers across Canada?

New Democrats would support a genuine safety strategy that concentrated on education, counselling and employee assistance programs. Safe performance, not exposure, should be the goal and the test of a sensible program.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

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[Translation]

#### NATIONAL UNITY

**Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval West):** Mr. Speaker, these are sad times in Canada when Quebecers and Canadians are seering their identity in a union that will make us a nation of various ethnic groups. So far, we had acknowledged, accepted and learned to live with our cultural differences, but today we are faced with a kind of confrontation that may lead to the break up of our society.

We must not let ourselves be overcome by hostile feelings, Mr. Speaker. Together we must work towards national reconciliation. We must forget our patriotic struggles. We must live for the future. We must build for the future.

I want to ask all members of this House to work together so that we can all build a country where people will want to live and where there will be a future for our children.

Let us not be self-centred or masochistic, Mr. Speaker. Live and let live, and let us all work together and leave our descendants a proper legacy.

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#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, the government keeps its commitments to official

languages. In addition to tabling its draft regulations for the 1988 Official Languages Act, our government signed on November 3 a general agreement with Manitoba to promote official languages. The agreement will, among other things, make it possible to review, translate and publish the Statutes and Regulations of the Province of Manitoba in both official languages; to implement French services at Manitoba Hydro, the St. Boniface General Hospital and public libraries in Francophone regions; and to renovate and expand the Centre culturel franco-manitobain.

Mr. Speaker, these are concrete examples of the kind of leadership this government has shown with respect to official languages.

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• (1410)

[English]

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, we all know that in spite of their rhetoric, the Liberal senators in the Liberal caucus could have defeated the GST on many occasions.

They could have defeated the GST when leave was sought to introduce the legislation into the Senate. They could have defeated the GST at first reading. They could have defeated the GST at second reading. They could have defeated the GST while the Liberals had the majority during GST committee work in April, May and June.

At all stages, the Liberal senators supported the GST. However, if there is still any question where the Liberals really stand on the GST, I have before me the 20th report of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking chaired by Liberal Ian Sinclair and including Liberals MacEachen, Perrault, Kirby and Buckwold.

They unanimously recommend that as soon as possible the federal government should introduce legislation to implement a broad based multi-stage sales tax. In other words, the Liberal senators in the Liberal caucus urged the Mulroney government to implement a GST. Shame on the Liberals for speaking against the GST while working quietly behind the scenes to have it implemented.