

[Translation]

### HIGHWAY SAFETY

**Mrs. Gabrielle Bertrand (Brome—Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Early in 1989, four young children from my riding died instantly as a result of two front-end collisions. In both cases, the children were riding in the back, secured with lap belts.

For a number of years, the *Régie de l'assurance automobile du Québec*, as well as many individuals, including a former colleague Mrs. Thérèse Killens, have been urging Transport Canada, which is responsible for establishing motor vehicle safety standards, to make it mandatory for all cars and vans sold in Canada to have three-point seat belts installed on the back seat. Could the Minister indicate whether he will follow up on this request?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the interest my colleague is showing in this matter. The appropriate regulations will be published in *The Canada Gazette* before the end of January.

\* \* \*

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right honourable Prime Minister. The Quebec government, his greatest supporter in his effort to impose the GST, has yielded to the arguments of the book industry and abolished its tax on books. My question to the Prime Minister is this: Will he assume his responsibility and immediately order his Minister of Finance to announce officially that books will be also excluded from the federal GST?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, the government prefers to bring *ad hoc* solutions to the specific problems of the francophone book industry. I have already explained that 40 per cent of my department's assistance program is allotted to the francophone industry. Also, under the new program implemented by the Federal Development Bank, 30 per cent of the amounts allocated by the bank will go to assist the francophone book industry. Finally, the government is seriously considering the possibility of implementing

### Oral Questions

two years earlier its postal subsidy replacement program, 50 per cent of which will assist the francophone publishing industry in Canada which we know is facing a very difficult situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Shefford, for a very short supplementary.

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Everyone in the book industry agrees that the minister's announcement is a lot of baloney. Is the Prime Minister ready to meet today with the cultural patriarch of Quebec, Mr. Gélinas, now more than 80 years old, who came to Ottawa to make representations for the book industry? Will the Prime Minister set aside five minutes to meet with the personality of the year in Quebec's book industry?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Minister of Communications asked me if I could take a few minutes before going to chair the National Council for Science and Technology and speak with Mr. Gélinas. I told to the minister I would be pleased to meet him at three o'clock sharp. Is he here?

**Some hon. members:** Yes.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Well, in that case, we can do so right now.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will be pleased to meet him in a few moments.

\* \* \*

• (1500)

[English]

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday when Treasury Board's supplementary estimates were tabled, they showed that the veterans affairs budget was reduced by \$3.26 million.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs stated that some budget-cutting measures will inevitably reduce veterans affairs' ability to respond to unforeseen problems and to deal as quickly as usual with new applications.