

We must not forget that Pinochet will continue to wield power as the head of the military. We must do all we can to assist and uphold the will of the Chilean people who, through a great deal of solidarity and effort, managed to bring about these democratic elections.

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ATLANTIC CANADA

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, it is no secret the Atlantic provinces are facing a number of difficulties. However, economic indicators reveal the economy of Atlantic Canada has benefited under this government's economic initiatives.

Farm cash receipts are up by 9.7 per cent. Sawmill production has increased by 56.3 per cent. Fish landings have risen by over 34.1 per cent in the past five years.

Since 1984, this government has been creating an average of 2,314 jobs a month in Atlantic Canada. That is a total of 118,000 new jobs for Atlantic Canadians.

Hollow words from the members opposite will not put bread on the table of Atlantic Canadians. It takes vision and leadership to arrive at long-term solutions to the economic realities of Atlantic Canada.

This government has shown its commitment to bring economic development to the regions of Canada. I commend the Prime Minister for his continued commitment to Atlantic Canadians.

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PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, in a letter to a Canadian taxpayer the Minister of Finance wrote:

The GST is a stable, reliable source of revenue that will secure our plan for year-by-year reduction in the deficit.

Could this mean that we will see year-by-year increases in the rate of the GST as well?

On the other hand, the government is reported to have told Canadians that it will lower the rate of the GST by cutting \$1 billion from government programs.

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We have also been told that the government had already cut non-essential programs. Does this mean that essential programs will now be cut?

The Chairman of the Finance Committee has once again blurted out senselessly inflammatory comments saying that the city of Ottawa must be trembling because of these proposed cutbacks. When will he stop abusing Canadians and start addressing their concerns about the goods and services tax?

When are the Canadian people going to get the straight facts about the goods and services tax?

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ETHIOPIA

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, the devastating famine confronting the people of Ethiopia is caused not only by drought, but also by a civil war and a government that refuses to allow relief supplies to reach the drought-stricken rebel held territories in Eritrea and Tigré.

According to international aid agencies, the famine threatens the lives of more than four million people in the northern provinces. A massive international emergency relief program must be put in place immediately.

I call on the Canadian government to take a leadership role in developing such a program. I also call on the government to pressure the Ethiopian government to open up supply routes to the territories, to establish corridors of tranquillity. As it stands now, supplies have to go through Sudan to reach the starving in the north, a long and difficult route.

Canadian and international aid to Ethiopia must reach the people who need it. The Ethiopian government cannot starve its own people. Canada must drive home this point.

Canada and the international community also have to state clearly that the Ethiopian civil war must end. A ceasefire, genuine negotiations and democratic reforms have to be put in place so that future suffering is eliminated.