

*Oral Questions*

For example, some of those groups include the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Canadian Organization of Small Business, the Consumers' Association of Canada, the National Council of Welfare, the Canadian Home Builders Association, Wood Gundy, the Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens, the One Voice Seniors Network, the Canadian Conference of the Arts, the Canadian Association for Universities of Continuing Education, various groups in the reading industry, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian food industry, the Conference Board of Canada, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Institute for Policy Analysis, the Canadian Bankers' Association, an increasing number of Conservative back-benchers, and the New Democratic Party.

Not only do we oppose the tax; we have an answer: tax those individuals and corporations that are not paying their fair share of tax today.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

## PRESENT SITUATION IN ERIE

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, the government has created a serious problem in my riding. There is a shortage of workers in my riding.

In the *Fort Erie Times Review*, the headline read: "The boom is on: employment galore". There is a tremendous demand for construction workers, for electricians, industrial personnel, hospital personnel, word processor operators, payroll clerks, technical writers, and financial managers.

To alleviate the shortage, Manpower Temporary Services is assisting seniors, UIC and welfare recipients, by teaching them new skills and upgrading old ones.

The success of these programs is evidenced by the fact that 80 per cent of the temporary positions lead to full-time work. These are the kinds of problems we need.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before we commence Question Period I want to draw to Members' attention the fact that today we welcome 42 new parliamentary pages to the House.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Again this year more than 500 young men and women from various regions of the country applied under this program. We are very lucky to have these young Canadians with us.

[*English*]

I know Hon. Members would want me to wish them the very best, both here and as they study at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. *Merci bien.*

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[*English*]

**FINANCE**

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister intends to impose the largest single new tax in Canadian history since the creation of the personal income tax. It is a new sales tax of billions upon billions upon billions of dollars.

With one tax this Prime Minister is setting a record for broken promises. He promised that the tax would be fiscally neutral. It is not. He promised the tax would be simple. It is not. He promised the tax would be involved with provincial taxation. It is not. He promised the tax would be visible on sales slips. It is not. He promised the tax would be brought in at the same time as the personal surtax was dropped. It was not. He promised the tax would be fair and he, above all, knows it is not fair.

I put to the Prime Minister, why is the Prime Minister bringing in this sales tax which is in violation of every single principle he described as being essential to tax reform?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of things in the preamble to that question which are quite inaccurate. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to put them individually, I would be happy to respond to them one by one. I do want to deal directly with his question. He asked why are we bringing this in?

I want to quote Mr. Wolfe Goodman, QC, who is one of the pre-eminent sales tax experts in this country, a