

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, Senator Murray says that it is futile to examine native issues while the national unity debate is on. He says: "Wait until after the Spicer group reports in July of 1991". I think this is wrong-headed, and it could be disastrous for Canada and for native people. Things can be done, progress can be made parallel to Spicer.

I draw the government's attention to an eloquent speech by Roberta Jamieson, Ombudsman for Ontario and herself a native Canadian. Last September in Halifax she said: "The issues, native issues, should be resolved, not buried". All the provincial ombudsmen agreed with her proposal for a federal commissioner to mediate day-to-day issues regarding native people. This is positive.

I warn the government in my home province of British Columbia that the situation at the roadblock on the Duffy Lake Road, near Pemberton, is about to explode. We could see another Oka in British Columbia. Let us not see that. Let us move now on native issues.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS ON THE LOWER NORTH SHORE

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, communications are extremely difficult year round on the lower north shore of the St. Lawrence River and in particular in the riding of Manicouagan.

The villages of Baie-Johan-Beetz, Kégaska, La Romaine, Harrington Harbour, La Tabatière, Mutton Bay, Aylmer Sound and Tête-à-la-Baleine are served by seaplanes in summer and by skiplanes in winter.

[English]

In the fall and the spring these isolated villages are linked by helicopter with the closest airport.

The basic necessities required by the people of these communities are obtained at great cost to them. The time has come for our government, in co-operation with the provincial government and with the local municipal

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authorities, to put in place the means to improve the transportation facilities on the lower north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

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CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, as you know this is Crime Prevention Week in Canada. Police forces across this country have been fighting a tough war against the illegal drug trade on their streets and in their communities. Drugs have been cited as a major cause of violence and crime in Canada.

The federal government acquires large sums of money through its proceeds of crime legislation and through seizures of cash in drug investigations. It has the ability to redirect all or a part of these funds from drug seizures to local police forces to aid them in their difficult battle. Do not forget that it is these very police forces that often finance the investigations and put up the front money in these cases. This money often comes from municipal taxpayers.

I urge this government to begin sharing the seized proceeds of crime with other Canadian police forces on an equitable basis to maximize the effective use of resources and permit these police agencies to share in the assets that their work produces.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, last week in New Brunswick the Minister of Income Assistance announced that the Government of New Brunswick will exempt the goods and services tax credit from consideration as income so that those with lower incomes will benefit from the credit. In other words, in cases of need, there will be no erosion of assistance from the province of New Brunswick.

This is a positive move and the province should be congratulated for it. This virtually assures what we have been saying all along, that lower and modest income Canadians will be better off under the new system, the GST system.