

Yet, at the same time, the Minister of Constitutional Affairs was quoted as saying: "The federal government has considered this and now, for several reasons, we have rejected the pure and simple option of a constituent assembly. We have reason to believe it would not be acceptable to Quebec".

Is it any wonder, then, that Canadians feel politicians are not responsive to their wishes and that they have lost faith in the political system and its leadership. If the Prime Minister is really looking for ways to restore the faith of Canadians in this House and in his leadership, he can start by establishing a constituent assembly as favoured by a majority of Canadians, both inside and outside Quebec.

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REVENUE CANADA

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that Revenue Canada is now withholding the goods and services tax credits from persons who qualified for the full GST rebate because they owe back taxes. It is my understanding that Revenue Canada is going back to collect 1986 taxes in order to receive back taxes of lower income Canadians who qualify for the full GST tax rebate. In other words, they are offsetting the GST rebate against back taxes that low income earners owe the government. And when I say low income earners, they are the ones who have the right to the full goods and services tax credit owed.

I don't know how many thousands of low income Canadians have had their rebates taken back to pay back taxes. Usually the rebate would only cover the interest on these back taxes. I think the Minister of National Revenue should spend the weekend and report to the House as to how many people are involved in the taking away from Canadians of their GST credits.

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[Translation]

QUEBEC'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, last week, the Liberal Party of Canada and the Bloc Québécois condemned the minister and member for Roberval, the Hon. Benoît Bouchard, and Conservative members for the Conservative government's involvement in regional development in Quebec's resource

areas. Today, after abandoning Abitibi—Témiscamingue, lac Saint-Jean, the North shore and the Gaspé, those same opposition members are asking Ottawa for greater federal involvement in the economic development of the Montreal region.

Since 1985, the Conservative government has been constantly involved in regional development in Quebec and has implemented programs to improve the economic situation of Quebecers.

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[English]

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): One hundred years ago today a young Canada mourned the death of a political giant. Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister and a Father of Confederation, worked tirelessly to weave the fabric of a young land. From his dream of a national rail link to his battle against the veiled threat of treason of unrestricted reciprocity, Sir John A. shepherded a design for confederation that has held fast for over a century. "Whatever you do, adhere to the union", he stated, "We are a great country and shall become one of the greatest if we preserve it. We shall sink into insignificance if we suffer it to be broken."

Well, look around, Sir John A., wherever you are. Your contemporary successor is flouting your vision. When today's Prime Minister was first elected he trumpeted "Give us 20 years and you will not recognize this country". Sir John, seven years later we are at the brink of becoming, in your own words, "a country broken". I know, sir, you will agree when you look at your political contemporaries that they have no vision, and when there is no vision the people perish.

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CANADA POST

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, now, more than ever, national symbols are vital to our Canadian identity. One such symbol, the heritage post office in Mossley, Ontario, is in imminent danger of disappearing. I was shocked to learn that at least 12 post offices of similar size to Mossley's have advertised recently for postmaster positions in Quebec and in other regions of Canada, as opposed to converting to a retail outlet.