

*Oral Questions*

What more could we ask for?

Mr. Prime Minister, I pay tribute to your know-how. The contracts and trade agreements you have managed to secure for Canada are a coup that even Germany, an exporting country par excellence, could not score.

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**GOVERNMENT FINANCES**

**Mr. Réjean Lefebvre (Champlain, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, in one year, the Liberals have had enough time to demonstrate their management skills. Did they manage to put the government's fiscal house in order? Unfortunately, no.

The Liberals did not do anything to collect the \$6.5 billion owed in back taxes. They would rather cut social programs indiscriminately.

The Auditor General's report shows that the government does not know how effective its programs are, as it prepares to axe them.

Instead, the Liberals should have the courage to cut the department of defence. Mismanagement of real property causes annual losses of \$100 million, while \$700 million could be saved on information technology projects. But that is something they leave alone.

In one year, the Liberals should have brought the government's finances under control. Unfortunately they failed to do so.

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[English]

**PENITENTIARY INMATES**

**Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I thought the golf course at Ferndale penitentiary was too much. I thought that prisoners getting old age security and GST rebates was repulsive. Free condoms to support their habits and conjugal visits for relief was a lot to expect.

Holy smokes, the prisoners are at it again. Cigarettes at Saskatchewan penitentiary are \$1.12 less on the inside than they are on the outside. At the Edmonton institution they are \$1.27 cheaper and at the Atlantic institution \$1.42 cheaper, and on and on it goes.

To commemorate the occasion of cheaper smokes for prisoners on the backs of the taxpayer, I am introducing a new brand packaged by Liberal & Co., tested by the health minister and financed by the Solicitor General. No, they are not Benson & Hedges; they are Marleau & Grays for the inmate who has everything.

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**AUDITOR GENERAL REPORTS**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, while I agree with many of the observations made by the Auditor

General and disagree with others, I want to put on the record a concern of mine which has grown over the years with the release of successive auditors general reports. The value for money concept was always loaded in my judgment, but increasingly it is obvious that the Auditor General is making value judgments, policy judgments, and policy prescriptions that are the purview of government and Parliament.

The Auditor General should not be giving us his opinion on whether social programs create dependence. They may or they may not. It is not the Auditor General's role to have an official opinion on this point.

The Auditor General is welcome to point out that the government is not doing a good job of collecting the taxes owed it, thus contributing to the deficit, but it is not his business, for example, if he were to do so, to recommend what kind of tax system we should have.

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[Translation]

**GILLETTE FARM**

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I want to stress how dismayed the population of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell feels following the fire that destroyed one of the most prestigious dairy farms in this country.

● (1415)

The Gillette farm located in Embrun, in my riding, was the biggest dairy farm in eastern Ontario and was renowned throughout the international farm community.

I have personally accompanied some of my parliamentary colleagues and foreigners who wished to tour this remarkable business. Farmers from around the world have looked to this farm for inspiration.

Fortunately for our region and for the farm community, the owners of this dairy farm, Dr. Gilles Patenaude and his sons, are not letting this tragedy get them down and are already talking about rebuilding it. We wish them all the courage they will need to get their operation going again.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[Translation]

**MATTHEW COON-COME**

**Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Leader of the Opposition, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the Cree chief Matthew Coon Come was in Washington continuing his smear campaign against Quebec in the United States, using insulting terms and accusing the Quebec government of pursuing a racist policy toward the Crees.