

government and its back-benchers will not justify nor clarify this confusing system.

The government has not guaranteed that the 7 per cent rate will not be raised after the tax is implemented.

The Minister of Finance promised the GST would be visible; instead, it is hidden. He promised the GST would be fair to middle and low-income Canadians; it is not. He promised that small businesses would be adequately compensated; they are not.

The GST is the key element in the government's strategy to redesign the Canadian tax system in a way that favours corporations and the rich at the expense of almost everyone else.

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[Translation]

#### REAL ESTATE

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, there has been a dramatic development in the real estate business. "Paul Legault buys the Permanent, the largest MLS real estate brokerage firm in Quebec" headlined an article in the *Journal de Montréal* on January 11.

Paul Legault, who has headed the Permanent since 1975, is a hard-driving man. He has a keen sense of marketing and innovation. He was the first broker to advertise individual properties on the radio, back in 1976. He also was the first to use video for selling homes and to set up exhibition booths in shopping centres.

Today, he is bringing the Permanent back to Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I knew Paul Legault when he worked on technical surveys for Hydro-Québec at Matagami in the James Bay area in 1967 and on behalf of Quebecers, I wish to congratulate him and all the real estate agents at the Permanent.

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[English]

#### MCCARRAN-WALTER ACT

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, *glasnost* has at last arrived in the land of the free and the home of the brave. The United States of America has

repealed the McCarran-Walter Act which had frozen their McCarthy-type immigration restrictions.

Forty years ago my then fiancée, Alice, working in the weiner room at Canada Packers in Montreal, taking skins off the skinless weiners, was elected to represent her local of the CIO packinghouse workers at their international union convention in Minneapolis. Because of that union's previous embarrassments at the U.S. border, her union directed her to get a visa to the U.S.

She went to the U.S. consulate and found that they suspected her of having undesirable political opinions. They asked her questions about her friends, their doings and their ideas. She refused to answer. They told her sweetly: "Any time you want a visa to the U.S. come back and we'll talk some more. Meanwhile, if you are found in the U.S. you can be imprisoned for a year and fined \$1,000." I married her anyway.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Heap:** Now when Alice goes to visit friends in the United States she no longer will run the danger of imprisonment. The land of the free has begun to open its borders. Congratulations, Alice!

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#### NATIONAL BURNS AWARENESS WEEK

**Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked the beginning of a very important week in Canada.

Through the efforts of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Shrine of North America, in particular its program chairman, Mr. Don Bernard of Sarnia, Ontario, the week of February 4 through February 10 has been recognized as the first annual National Burns Awareness Week, a week which has been endorsed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental deaths in this country especially among our children, our elderly and our disabled. Yet it is estimated that 75 per cent of these injuries could be prevented through greater public awareness and better education. More widespread use of smoke detectors, home escape plans, as well as other procedures and techniques are essential to addressing the problem of burn injuries.