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PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, in the riding of Elk Island a hard working music producer in the Sherwood Park area has informed me that the current manufacturer's sales tax is crippling the western Canadian music industry.

This Albertan is well known for his contributions to Canadian music as a performer and as a producer. He said that under the current federal sales tax, the MST, Alberta record stores are required to pay the federal sales tax before their product is sold. He recommends a federal sales tax at the point of consumption rather than at the point of production. He says that the GST will help.

We must work together to diversify the economy of western Canada. Our government must take a leadership role in helping the music industry in western Canada. The Government of Canada must replace the existing federal sales tax, the MST, in order to build a stronger economy in western Canada.

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MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I want to appeal for moderation and goodwill in the continuing Meech Lake Accord debate. The implications of this issue for Quebec and all of Canada are too serious to be left to demagoguery, threats and accusations.

The discussion is becoming divisive and destructive and there is extremism on both sides. I accept the distinctiveness of Quebec and agreed to its original five conditions, but the Meech accord goes beyond those conditions and impacts on many other matters.

Those who propose amendments are not anti-Quebec, nor is Quebec anti-Canadian because it wishes to protect its distinct language and culture in an English North America.

I plead with the government to bring both sides together so that Quebec can live comfortably within Confederation and so that Canada will continue to thrive nationally as a strong political unit.

CANADIAN COAST GUARD

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Parliament for a Nova Scotia riding bordering on the Bay of Fundy and the Northumberland Strait, I would like to say that my experience in dealing with the Coast Guard has been nothing but positive in every respect.

Recently, the residents of an area of my riding which suffers high unemployment asked me to approach the Coast Guard in the interest of utilizing two Coast Guard lighthouses to enhance their tourist potential. The local director of the Coast Guard, Mr. Larry Wilson, and his associate, Wilford Tucker, responded immediately by sending a representative to meet with the residents to find out what they wanted and how the Coast Guard could be of assistance.

The happy conclusion was that the Spencer's Island lighthouse was turned over to the community, and the grounds and buildings of the Cape D'Or lighthouse were made available to the community of Advocate.

On behalf of the people of Spencer's Island, the people of Advocate, and myself, I would like to thank Larry Wilson and his staff at the Coast Guard not only for what they did but also how they did it.

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MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, deep concern and mistrust over the Constitution and the Meech Lake Accord are tearing our country apart and the time has come for strong leadership by the Prime Minister.

There is disquiet and discontent out there and the Prime Minister must listen. I fear people are settling into entrenched camps which is destructive for the country and can only be stopped by principled leadership that will listen, understand, and advance solutions that overcome insecurities.

Ultimately, the federal government must safeguard and promote the national interest for all Canadians. Let's end the confrontation. The Prime Minister must restore calm and begin building a consensus. We must make our nation more united by Constitutional change, not divided by it.