

S. O. 31

Atlantic Canada has been punished too much already. We cannot tolerate another blow to our rural ridings. I give the example of Canso, Nova Scotia, which is at this time faced with possible closure of its fish processing plant. The task force recommends that Canso be dropped from the list to qualify for this tax deduction.

Rural ridings are not the ones which should pay the price of a mismanagement of this government. They should be on the top of the list for benefits, not removed and forgotten.

HOUSING

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this House to the government's record on co-operative housing. In 1986 the government made a commitment to fund 5,000 co-operative housing units a year. Yet in 1986 they funded only 2,900; in 1987, 3,800; and in 1988, 3,100. Now, in this year, they are funding only 1,700, one-third of the promise of 1986.

Today the minister made an announcement that gave no indication that this government was abandoning its attack on co-operative housing. Instead, the many struggling co-op housing resource industries which are desperately trying to keep afloat following federal government cut-backs have been given larger project advances for start-up funds. These advances will have to be repaid in full. This will not build one additional co-op housing unit. People in need of homes want a substantial housing policy. Instead, they get smoke and mirrors. When will the government live up to its commitments on co-operative housing?

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• (1410)

[Translation]

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that last Monday was dedicated to of community organization involvement and promotion in Québec.

About 67 organizations in my riding told me about their shortage of funds and the lack of recognition for their role as social intervenors.

I therefore ask the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mrs. McDougall) to consider the demands of community groups and help them obtain genuine recognition by introducing a satisfactory funding policy.

In this connection, enhance and hiring criteria for various federal employment programs should be drafted in terms of the needs of community-based organisations.

No country, Mr. Speaker, not even Canada, can do without the thousands of volunteer workers who are an invaluable resource for improving the quality of life of the neediest among us.

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PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government is telling Canadians they do not understand the goods and services tax. Canadians are accused of being misinformed and naive in this respect.

[English]

I stand today to say that Canadians do understand. They understand that they have been deceived about this tax. Canadians are disappointed and they are diametrically opposed to what this government is doing.

The government said that the tax will be revenue neutral, visible and combined with provincial sales tax systems. The government shook the hands of Canadians before the election and has shaken their confidence today.

In my riding of Ottawa Centre alone over 2,500 people joined a coalition against the goods and services tax and said "no" to the 9 per cent, "no" to the 7 per cent, and are saying "no" to the goods and services tax.

When is this government going to start listening to Canadians and drop this tax?

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council released its quarterly report on Monday. It contains some welcome news about the state of the New Brunswick economy. APEC says that New Brunswick will have the strongest economy in Atlantic Canada in 1989 and into 1990 and will