

families, than there were when this government took office in 1984.

• (1430)

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

**Mrs. Collins:** I am going to work with my colleagues to ensure that continues. I am going to work with my colleagues on the issues of family violence.

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### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. This morning we heard from representatives of the National Council on Welfare and the National Anti-Poverty Organization. They stated very clearly that they wanted members of Parliament to vote against the goods and services tax proposal that is before Parliament.

Will the minister admit today clearly that he has misinformed the Canadian people and that, in fact, as studies indicate, as the anti-poverty league indicates and as the National Council on Welfare indicates, families in Canada with incomes under \$30,000 will be worse off under his GST proposal than they are now?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** No, I do not accept that conclusion at all, Mr. Speaker, and we made why very clear in the GST documents.

In the committee meeting this morning did the hon. member put out the alternatives that he has for the goods and services tax? Is he telling the members of the committee that if his party ever got into government it would scrap the goods and services tax? Is that the policy? Or are there going to be some more weasel words in there that they will scrap the Conservatives goods and services tax? Will the Liberals put in another consumption tax?

What about the wealth tax that the member is talking about? Are we going to have a wealth tax? Is that wealth tax going to be on the family farm? Is it going to be on small business, on private homes, on bank accounts? What sort of wealth tax is he proposing? What sort of consumption tax is he proposing? Or is he going to increase income tax rates as he was saying out in Edmonton?

### Oral Questions

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

[Translation]

**Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, although the GST bill has yet to be passed by Parliament, the government has already spent over \$100 million on it.

Since in his budget, the Minister announced some pretty dramatic cutbacks in programs for aboriginal people, students, veterans and the woman of this country, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance how he can justify spending over \$100 million on propaganda and planning for a goods and services tax that has been massively rejected by all Canadians.

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I hope you took careful note of how quickly my colleague ran away from the substance of the GST issue because he did not want to put anything else on the table. As soon as I raise the question of alternatives, he turns tail and starts to talk about the moneys that we are using to prepare for the goods and service tax.

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

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** He knows full well that a government has the responsibility to make preparations for legislation that is before the House. That is a practice that has been quite consistent in Parliament for many years. When Parliament is considering legislation it is the responsibility of the operating departments involved to make the preparations, to put the planning in place, to put the assets in place, to be able to fulfil the responsibilities when that tax comes in.

We have made it quite clear that the goods and services tax is a fundamental principle of this government. It was referred to in the Speech from the Throne last year. It has been a part of two budgets and these preparations are very consistent with parliamentary practice and the policies of this government.

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the obscene plan to spend in excess of \$100 million to set up and sell the GST, the most unpopular policy ever imposed by a Canadian government on its own people.