

Oral Questions

providing considerable Canadian coverage by Canadians for Canadians, sometimes even better than the CBC.

I wish to announce to the House that I have instructed the clerk of the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture to invite the management of CBC to appear before the committee Tuesday next at 9 a.m. I suspect there may be some opposition members who may wish to attend.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, today I rise in this House to mark the tragic anniversary of the murder of 14 women and to remind the House that violence against women happens everywhere, every day. The real tragedy of violence against women is that it is so commonplace. One woman in Canada is assaulted every six minutes.

Across the country, there are those who would like to deny the reality of violence against women. The Speaker of the legislature in Alberta refused to allow any remembrance of the event. He said it would not be an appropriate observation for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. In Newfoundland, the male Status of Women Minister felt that the murders were an isolated incident which had nothing to do with women in Newfoundland. Today, an angry man called the Newfoundland Advisory Council on the Status of Women and told the woman who answered the phone that he wished there were more Marc Lepines. Violence affects every region of Canada.

Flags fly at half-mast in the Yukon today to mark the anniversary of the occurrence at the École polytechnique, and the tragic deaths of 106 Canadian women who have died of family violence in the last 12 months.

In memory of women victims of violence everywhere, I urge all Canadians to first mourn and then work for change.

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[*Translation*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, recently I read the following article in one of our papers: "Savings as a result of GST—A commitment to Canadians! More than 100 companies have agreed to let you

take advantage of their savings once the GST comes into force." And I believe that, Mr. Speaker!

This week, upon finishing a roll of paper, I found this bilingual coupon:

Message re goods and services tax.

On January 1, 1991, we expect the federal manufacturers' sales tax to be abolished and replaced by a 7 per cent tax on goods and services (GST).

We take pleasure in announcing that Facelle Limited will reduce the price to distributors of all brand name consumer products on January 1, 1991, to fully reflect the fact that the manufacturers' sales tax now in effect has been abolished. Facelle products will then be subject to the new GST. The transition should have no inflationary effect on the price of Facelle products.

Mr. Speaker, my message to the senators is: Stop fooling around and pass the GST—step on it!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. A year ago today, a tragic event made a lasting impact on the École polytechnique in Montreal and the entire country. In a matter of minutes, 14 women with a promising future lost their lives as a result of violence. Throughout the country we see a disturbing increase in violence against women. Considering these terrible and shocking facts, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether today he will announce the appointment of a royal commission on violence against women in this country.

[*English*]

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, I think all of us grieve and remember that event of a year ago today and we will, after Question Period, have an opportunity to express our concerns.

The suggestion that the Leader of the Opposition has made has been made to the government by a group of women's organizations in the last few days. I am looking forward to meeting with them and discussing it with them. I have also asked the special subcommittee dealing with violence against women to advise us as well on an appropriate mechanism, whether a royal commission or some other mechanism, that will enable us to move