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Canadian as a *noiraud qui revient de l'hôpital psychiatrique*.

It is simply not acceptable to sink to this level of personal attack on a man seeking elected office and it is not acceptable to refer to any Canadian in this cruel manner. This is the language of apartheid and of fear and ignorance. This is the language we might expect from other elements of society, not from a man to whom Canadian people have given their trust.

We in the Conservative party are serious about combating racism. Let us see whether the members opposite are serious about eradicating it as well, wherever it is found. Let us see whether the Liberal Party has the courage to stand for human dignity, or whether it encourages such excesses.

• (1410)

We as parliamentarians have to stand up and be counted. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to take strong measures and remove the member for Hull—Aylmer from his caucus responsibilities.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NEW WATERFORD OPERATIONS—LINGAN MINE

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Government of Canada to provide a real commitment to the Cape Breton Development Corporation and in particular its operations in New Waterford, namely, the Lingan Mine.

Some months ago the Government of Canada entered negotiations with the province of Nova Scotia to provide moneys to a Pictou county coal mine. I am informed that these negotiations have progressed to the point whereby the Government of Canada will be providing money to that particular operation. The Cape Breton Development Corporation will be in direct competition with this particular facility. As a result, 275 jobs will be lost at the Lingan Mine in New Waterford, Nova Scotia.

The municipal council of the town of New Waterford and all of its citizens, as well as the local MLAs and the Conservative Premier of Nova Scotia, have come out in support of the longevity for the Lingan Coal Mine.

I ask that the Government of Canada, through the minister responsible for the Cape Breton Development Corporation, provides a clear and unequivocal commitment to the Cape Breton Development Corporation but, more important, to the Lingan Mine, its viability, and the protection of some 1,200 jobs in a small mining town in Canada, namely, New Waterford. I seek that commitment today.

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TRANSPORTATION

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Ken James (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues from southwestern Ontario, I rise at this time to remind the Minister of Transport and our cabinet colleagues of the particular importance of local passenger rail service for our area.

On a number of occasions our message to the minister and the cabinet has been clear and concise. Passenger rail service is very important to our area and must continue to be a component of the local transportation fabric. Our residents count on the train. Ridership and revenue statistics clearly reflect that people in southwestern Ontario have and will continue to use it rather than lose it.

Two other facts are equally evident. First, there are opportunities for further improvement in ridership and cost recovery through administrative and scheduling changes and fare increases. Second, the less than adequate condition of local on-road and air transportation networks preclude these from being viable alternatives for increased volume.

It is for these reasons that the particularities of southwestern Ontario should be taken into full consideration prior to any decision being made on changing the north and south lines of passenger rail service in southwestern Ontario.

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FINANCE

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, we all are aware that a tidal wave of opposition is sweeping across the country against the government's proposal for a goods and services tax.