

hundred thousand inhabitants we are the second lowest, and on it goes.

These are trying times and difficult times. We need to compete in the world and we need the tools to do it.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being eleven o'clock, the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have been weathering the cold icy practices of this Conservative government, but I want Canadians to take heart because spring is on the horizon.

Canadians are against the proposed goods and services tax. The GST is truly regressive. However, it is the Liberal Party that is giving Canadians from coast to coast an opportunity to say no to the GST. Canadians can help fight this GST any day of the week next week by picking up the phone and dialling 1-900-720-6052. That registers their no vote to this GST.

Canadians know that this government and this Minister of Finance have raised their taxes 32 times since taking office, yet they have not managed to bring the deficit under control. Although the Minister of Finance has called the present manufacturers' retail sales tax a silent killer of jobs, it did not stop him from raising the tax from 9 per cent in 1984 to 13.5 per cent today. Canadians also know—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton.

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TRADE

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, Sarnia-Lambton, like a number of border communities across Canada, is in transition. A number of recent developments, including the implementation of the free

trade agreement, has fostered many new conditions and changes in our community.

Within this context I have joined with other government members who represent border communities to form an ad hoc border issues committee. The group is studying the issues and problems which have a particular and profound impact on border regions such as Sarnia-Lambton. Tariff and duty collection, GST rebates for foreign tourists, cross border traffic, and personal exemptions are just a few.

It is my hope that the committee can develop positions and possible options which may help the government address the problems which we face collectively. I believe that the committee's activities will help alleviate the special circumstances which confront those of us who reside in border communities.

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TIBET

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, one year ago marshal law was declared in Tibet. Since that time Tibetans have been subject to indiscriminate arrest, beatings, pass laws, surveillance by troops armed with automatic weapons, and jail sentencing up to 20 years for advocating independence in Tibet.

Thirty-one years ago saw the popular uprising in which thousands of Tibetans were cruelly killed by Chinese security forces. There has been no improvement since that time.

Two years ago I stood in this House and asked the Canadian government to support the demands of the Tibetan people. Nothing has changed. Tibetans are still seeking their independence and their freedom. They are still seeking basic human rights. Canada should not wait any longer. Tibetans have the right to self-determination and Canada must respect and support their cause.

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THE BUDGET

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, this week's budget debate proved to the Canadian people a number of things. Two points in particular were crystallized in the course of exchanges. The first is that the opposition parties have yet to return from