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Who is this man to go into the province of Alberta and in response to serious and thoughtful concerns over the proposed GST, say, "I have never seen such stupidity in all my life"? Where does this man get off telling Albertans, "I wonder what they are, out to lunch". What gives the chairman of the finance committee the right to come from Metropolitan Toronto to western Canada and say, "I fail to understand how the level of education could be so low in the community". Why does the Member for Mississauga South remain in his job after commenting, "I guess what we ought to do is send a bunch of grade 5 teachers out here".

We in the west have had enough of this man's insults, his arrogance and contemptible behaviour. He owes us an apology. Better still, he owes us his resignation.

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HOUSING

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): The Minister of Housing again is backing away from the positions of principle he took when he was a back-bencher. First, he agreed that the government had failed to provide affordable housing. Then he stated that the 30 per cent of income for housing is no longer a realistic figure. Now the minister says affordable housing is not a national priority.

How can he say that housing is not a priority when 1.2 million children in this country live in poverty, poverty often caused by the lack of affordable housing and high rents? How can he say that affordable housing is not a priority when the Canadian Real Estate Association says there are major affordability problems, not just in Toronto and Vancouver but in 27 areas of Canada.

This minister continues to be an apologist for the government's shameful lack of commitment to providing housing for Canadian families. This minister continues to make explanations in the House for his outlandish statements that are not believable.

Those in need of affordable housing and housing organizations have reached their limit of frustration with this minister's cavalier statements and his lack of action.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham): Mr. Speaker, the announced cancellation of the VIA Toronto, Peterborough, Havelock line through an area of rapid housing development has put the future of public transportation in the area in jeopardy. Spokespeople for GO Transit have stated that GO would be interested in the route as early as 1993.

Yesterday, the Minister of Transport stated a willingness to have discussions with the Government of Ontario about the future of the Toronto-Peterborough line. I urge the Minister to request his officials to initiate negotiations immediately with their Ontario counterparts. The objective would be to develop an interim plan to continue passenger rail service on the line until such time that GO Transit would inaugurate permanent service on its own initiative.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, farmers across this country, particularly in western Canada, depend upon the co-operation of the Canadian Government to ensure success in their farm operations.

The advance payments program is an important part of the co-operative relationship between our farmers and Canada's government. The Minister of Agriculture is committed to passing legislation that will provide advance payments for our farmers.

However, the Liberal Party of Canada, in its political wisdom, has chosen to put a road-block in the path of the minister's efforts to help our farmers. Canadian farmers will not tolerate political games by the Liberals.

Our farmers are important. Let us work together in this House to help our farmers. Let us pass the advance payments bill so farmers can get on with the business of farming.