

S. O. 31

policies, which had a free rein as a result of lack of federal control, are responsible for rising inflation in Ontario, and Quebec is paying the price.

Today, even if Meech Lake was rejected, Quebec still has every interest in limiting the federal government's spending power. That is why independence is the only formula that will safeguard Quebec's economic stability and ensure its economic growth.

* * *

[English]

PARKS

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, we must begin to question legislation and regulations that take land and its resources away from residents of rural Canada.

A case in point was made in a letter from Judy Skidmore of Northcare, who explains what occurred in a recent meeting on access of local residents to the Polar Bear Provincial Park in northern Ontario. She writes:

At our meeting I listened in embarrassment and frustration as a young trapper, wearing the Ontario Trappers cap, pleaded with the environmentalists to allow him to build overnight shelter from the rain on his trap line.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists representative could not agree with him. Several other Peawanuck people explained how their ATVs worked and how they would like to use the four of them in part of the huge park.

I stated our despair and rejection of this meeting, where people of a northern community pleaded with four individuals from Toronto for shelter from the rain and for permission to use ATVs in their own region.

I submit that it is time to listen to the residents of the regions. These are the people who are living off the land, working with our country's rich resources.

* * *

• (1410)

[Translation]

REVENUE CANADA

Mr. Michel Champagne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue continues to condone the poor judgment of its employees in handling the case of Réjean Perron, a taxpayer from La Tuque.

After I informed the minister that his employees waited until the four-year deadline was past to require Mr. Perron to file his tax return for 1985-86, I would have thought a sensible minister would have taken corrective action to deal with the discriminatory treatment suffered by my constituent. However, the minister insists on closing his eyes to the situation and knowingly allows this serious injustice to continue.

Instead of spending millions of dollars on advertising to convince people that Revenue Canada is fair and equitable in its dealings with taxpayers, I think the minister should do more to ensure that people whose interests have been adversely affected are compensated. That should be your first priority.

Mr. Perron is still waiting for the money Revenue Canada owes him. He did not steal this money. He paid too much on his deductions. He has proven he is a good citizen by paying his taxes, and why should the minister prove himself to be the opposite by denying him the refund to which he is entitled?

Mr. Saint-Julien: Shame!

* * *

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, Canadian consumers such as my constituents in Nepean will be hard hit by this government's proposal to expose electricity costs to the GST. I have received more than 2,000 response cards from customers of Nepean Hydro protesting in the strongest terms against the application of the GST to their monthly electric bill.

Some of their comments are:

Like food, water, and medical services, electricity is not a luxury, but an essential and vital commodity that should not be subject to the GST.

It should be considered a service, not a source of revenue.

Pensioners, like ourselves are alarmed and tired of this taxation invasion.

Successive federal governments have exempted electricity from taxation since the manufacturers' sales tax was introduced early this century.

The GST would cost hydro users an extra \$300 million a year in the province of Ontario alone.