

ment to invest in a first-class passenger rail service for the country as opposed to curtailing parts of it.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of constituents of Kamloops and other parts of central British Columbia who point out that the 7 per cent goods and services tax will have an adverse affect on the tourism industry and the hospitality industry generally and will put Canada in an unfair competition position *vis-à-vis* the United States.

They believe that literally thousands of American tourists will stay home as opposed to visiting Canada, and thousands of Canadian tourists will go to the United States to avoid the 7 per cent GST on their goods and services related to tourism.

That is to say nothing of the tax on reading which now makes us the only country in the world that does so. Naturally they are asking the government to come to its senses and stop this tax. If they were here, they would call on the Liberals in the Senate to kill the bill as well.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I ask that all questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall all questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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POINT OF ORDER

IMMIGRATION—MAHMOOD HASSAN RANDEREE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre): Madam Speaker, before we move to Government Orders, I want to acknowledge the decision of the government to agree to accept the refugee application of Mahmood Hassan Randeree. The case has caused some major discussion in the House of Commons over the past two weeks.

Government Orders

I want to express my appreciation to the Minister of Employment and Immigration for listening to those entreaties and to acknowledge the fact that the government had made a mistake and was wise enough to correct that mistake.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, I would like to thank the hon. member and tell him that we certainly do appreciate that message and it will be related to the minister.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADIAN POLAR COMMISSION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Siddon that Bill C-72, an act to establish the Canadian Polar Commission and to amend certain acts in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the legislative committee.

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Madam Speaker, I rise to continue debate on Bill C-72, an act to establish the Canadian Polar Commission, which was first announced in Leningrad last November by the Prime Minister. Now it seems rather fitting that we are discussing legislation to fulfil that promise after the recent visit of Mr. Gorbachev to Ottawa.

The Prime Minister has continuously acted on his commitment to enhance Canada's role in the international forum. The establishment of the Canadian Polar Commission is a culmination of this leadership in enhancing Canada's role in circumpolar and scientific affairs.

I have been very fortunate of late to spend time in the north. As mentioned earlier, I returned to Ottawa yesterday after visiting Yellowknife and Iqaluit to participate in the Arctic environmental strategy consultations, another important initiative of this government.

Not many Canadians have had the opportunity to travel to our north. I can assure members that since