

*Oral Questions*

If this is the final version of the Prime Minister's goods and services tax, why is it 100 per cent the opposite of what he promised during the last election? Has he got to the stage now where he no longer feels any personal obligation to fulfil his promises and commitments to the Canadian people?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we have demonstrated clearly that we have fulfilled our promises. I want to take the leader of the opposition through what he has just said, point by point. On the question of provincial participation, we said at the time—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Unworkable without it. That is what you said.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, if I might have the opportunity to refer the Leader of the Opposition to the white paper back in June, 1987, we said that there were three options. What is being proposed in legislation now is precisely one of those options. We tried to get provincial participation. It was not possible.

Second, on simplicity, perhaps the hon. member would like to compare the manufacturers' sales tax and its 22,000 exemptions out of 75,000 taxpayers with this particular tax. If he looks at that tax where one out of three taxpayers has an exemption and some sort of special deal on it with Revenue Canada, surely the Leader of the Opposition will understand that it is a very complex tax.

The third point is visibility. How can the hon. member say we are not moving to a very visible tax? By changing from an existing tax which is very deep in the price of anything that is purchased in this country to one where the cash register receipt will show how much tax is paid, that is visibility.

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[Translation]

**BORDER CONTROL**

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue.

Yesterday, Montrealers were dismayed to learn that the Miron quarry had become a dump for waste from New York.

I would like to ask the minister what concrete and practical measures he has taken since his colleague from the Environment and he assured this House in December 1988 that they were taking measures to control the Canada-U.S. border? What has been done? How is it that today, 14 months later, we find ourselves with a situation like the one at the Miron quarry in Montreal?

[English]

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will know that we have entered into agreements with the Department of the Environment for the Province of Quebec to monitor the borders on illegal solid waste coming into this country—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Check it off as it comes in.

**Mr. Jelinek:** The Leader of the Opposition just doesn't want to listen, does he? We have been very successful in the last 14 months. The hon. member has just pointed out the time frame.

However, a few days ago solid waste was hidden in recycled paper as a new method of trying to move solid waste into Canada. A shipment did come in. A shipment came in because it was impossible for our customs officers to know that it was being hidden in the recycled paper. We took immediate measures to utilize our new automated computers, our Customs commercialized systems, to have an input into the system. As a result of that, as recently as yesterday our customs officers stopped another illegal shipment with waste hidden in the recycled paper and the U.S. Customs were able to seize it as a result of the positive steps taken by Canada Customs. So, our system is working.

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

The minister tells us about a truck that was blocked. But he is silent on the dozens of trucks carrying thousands of tons of waste from the United States which are dumped here in Canada. We are indignant about this silence on these trucks coming from the United States.