

Minister of Justice intend to do to help women who are victims of violence?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we have a very extensive program to deal with the matters to which the hon. member referred. It is not a simple matter. In fact it is a very complex one. However, attitudes, not just men's but also women's attitudes, are very important. They are the basis for the changes that are necessary in society. We have initiated programs that deal with the attitudes at the root of these problems. As I said before, we have a very extensive program, and, in my opinion, a very effective one to deal with these matters.

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• (1500)

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The current nursing shortage has forced many nursing homes to rely on medical service companies to provide their nursing and support staff. As a result most of the labour cost of these homes will be subject to the 7 per cent GST. Nursing homes expect to have no option but to pass this cost on to their patients.

Now that the Canadian Council on Social Development and other national social policy organizations have issued an indictment of this government's current funding policies regarding medicare, I ask the minister if his government will continue to allow the GST to be aimed at the pension cheques of the chronically ill.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member stretches rather far in trying to link the various allegations that she makes.

She knows full well that sitting before the Senate right now is legislation that would allow cheques to go out to millions of low income Canadians as part of the GST tax rebate. If her colleagues who are barricading that in the

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Senate would get moving, those Canadian families earning less than \$30,000 a year would benefit.

What we need from the other side is its co-operation in order to get these cheques into the hands of these Canadians.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to bring to the attention of hon. members the presence in the gallery of the recipients of this year's Persons Award: Geraldine Bailey, Mrs. Jean Scott, Mrs. Helen Hnatyshyn, Madame Thérèse Dallaire-Laplante, Mrs. Irene Grant, and Madame Délie Gallien-Chiasson.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I also wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of Mr. Richard Thornburgh, U.S. Attorney General.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I think I am obligated to say something to the House and to one of our hon. members.

When I made the remark that I would hope the hon. member in putting his supplemental would make it clear that he was dissociating himself from what took place here, that may have implied a presumption which was not proper for me to make. I say to the hon. member that I did not mean to leave that presumption, and I hope the hon. member will accept my apology.

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COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period when the member for Windsor—St. Clair was dissociating himself from the demonstration that took place today, unfortunately I said to him: "We don't believe you, Howard". I wish to apologize to him most sincerely.

An hon. member: We don't believe you.

Mr. Shields: It was most unparliamentary and I realize that.

I also wish to apologize to all hon. friends in the House, my colleagues. I wish to withdraw that remark.