

Fact four. Expenditures on government programs have fallen by about 15 per cent as a proportion of our gross domestic product. By 1993, they will be at the level of the late 1960s.

Fact five. Only Alberta has matched our record of controlling program expenditures. No other province has even come close. And provincial governments don't have to worry about the billions of dollars of fixed payments to provinces. This year Ottawa transferred \$33.5 billion to the provinces, including \$2.4 billion to Alberta.

Fact six. We've sold off or dissolved 18 Crown corporations. That's more privatization than ever undertaken by all the provincial and federal governments in the history of Canada.

Fact seven. We have done all this at a time when new initiatives have been required in areas such as the environment, in support for East Coast fisheries, and in support for the ravaged farmers of Western Canada - who received in 1988 alone the equivalent of \$30,000 per farmer in federal support.

We are cutting expenditures to ensure the taxes you pay go to pay down the deficit or to pay for services Canadians want and need. That is the purpose of the federal sales tax.

The MST will yield \$18 billion in revenue this year. If we axe that tax, we have two choices: either to build a better tax, or scrap \$18 billion worth of Canadian services. We are not talking here about one or two programs. Anyone who tells you that we could raise that kind of money by ending bilingualism and terminating cultural grants is lying. The dollars just don't add up.

Anyone who proposes an \$18 billion cut in federal spending is proposing to scrap major Canadian services. That could be Medicare. It could be national defence - or old-age pension - or school and hospital services. That's what would be required to save the money foregone by abandoning the sales tax.

Let those who say they don't like the GST tell you which services they would cut. Or let them tell you what other tax they would impose to make up the shortfall.

Let them tell you how they would fund medicare, how they would fund the old-age pension, how they would fund national defence, and how they would fund our schools and hospitals.