HIGHWAYS

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. All members in this House are aware that the government is pushing ahead with the fixed link. Numerous studies have shown that the Trans-Canada highway in both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island must be upgraded to four lanes to handle the increased traffic. There is no use in building a link for the year 2000 with roads that are 1950 and older.

When will this minister commit the necessary funds to ensure that New Brunswick has a four-lane Trans-Canada highway?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in this period of high constraints on the budget, the federal government has to manage its money carefully, and at the same time ensure that it meets its commitments with the various regions of this country.

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my supplemental is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Premier McKenna has stated that people are literally dying to get an up-graded Trans-Canada highway in New Brunswick. They are dying by the dozens and there are thousands of accidents each year. Newspaper headlines are revealing and I quote: "Highways Claim Five on the Weekend, Two More Die on New Brunswick Highways, Fatality Closes Trans-Canada Highway, Woman Dies in Accident Involving School Bus, One Killed in Car-Truck Crash" and just this weekend another death. When is this government going to assume its national responsibility and provide a four-lane highway for New Brunswick?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in the enumerating the problems that my hon. colleague has just mentioned, I think if he looks carefully he will find that a vast number of these concerns should be addressed to the provincial government.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Finance.

Last week we learned the government's GST raised $400 million more in just 90 days than it was supposed to, a substantial hike for a tax that was supposed to be revenue neutral.

Last night the Minister of Finance said: "Canadians generally have made it fairly clear they do not want any new tax increases."

My question is this. Does this mean there is now some hope for my constituents that there will ever be any relief for middle class taxpayers? Is the GST a cash cow and, if it is, who is getting the milk?

Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, as most middle income taxpayers in this country have informed me, they want the federal government to start paying the bills so that the kids of the future will have a wonderful country in which to grow and have their own families and employment.

We have to pay the bills that have been rung up over the years by the government. We have been living beyond our means. Any excess moneys will go into a reduction fund. In reducing the deficit we will be reducing interest rates and we will be making it unnecessary for us to raise taxes when we do have that income. I think all that is very important and that is what our whole tax system is designed to do.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister.

Last week Environment Canada sent a 16-page pamphlet to every home in Canada. It was distributed only in French in Quebec and only in English outside Quebec.

[*Translation*]

With the result that 800,000 francophones outside Quebec had their linguistic rights denied and an equal number of anglophones in Quebec were similarly discriminated against.

Mr. Speaker, why did Environment Canada disregard the Official Languages Act?