

service whatsoever. The train is always late because it is a freight train.

What the minister also did not tell this House is that it takes over 33 hours to go from Waboden to Churchill on this particular run. He did not tell this House that there is no place for the passengers to sleep. They are kicked off the train overnight and the station is closed.

The minister ignored the regular passenger train on which, during the tourist season, seats and sleeping accommodations are often impossible to come by. By wantonly using ridiculous aberrations, the minister is clearly demonstrating the obvious. He is not telling the truth to the people of Canada. VIA Rail needs a new conductor. The minister must go.

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NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, this week, October 8 through 14, has been proclaimed National Fire Prevention Week. The theme this year is: "Big fires start small. Keep matches and lighters in the right hands". This theme was chosen following findings which indicate that one of every seven school children has recently played with fire, and that children playing with fire is the leading cause of fire deaths among very young children.

Canadians this week and throughout the year are invited to involve themselves in fire safety prevention measures and are reminded to take extra precautions at home to prevent children from having easy access to fire starting materials. As Saturday, October 14, marks Fire Service Recognition Day, I am sure that all members present and indeed all Canadians would like to join me in saluting the dedication and effectiveness of the members of Canada's fire service.

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• (1410)

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance sometimes likes to quote me in the House and I wish to provide him with more quotations. For instance, I also said that this

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Mulroney government is the worst thing that happened to the Canadian people since World War II.

[*Translation*]

I would like to quote the Minister who said in the House on March 8, 1984: "We will reduce spending. We will avoid raising taxes which are already too high".

An Hon. Member: Who said that?

Mr. Gauthier: The Minister of Finance!

He did not keep his promise. The Minister increased spending and raised taxes thirty-one times. Even worse, he is about to have Parliament approve a 9 per cent tax on goods and services. Mr. Speaker, this new tax is unfair and inequitable. It will cause particular hardship for low- and middle-income families.

The provinces are aware of the financial circumstances of Canadian families. That is why they do not tax food, and most provinces have no tax on clothing, or if they do, they tax at a very low rate. The Mulroney Government wants to tax these vital necessities as well. The goods and services tax is an anti-family tax. I think the Minister of Finance could use a new slogan, and I will quote one from a statement I made recently. It is: "What is good for the Conservatives is bad for Canadians".

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[*English*]

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca is stumbling at the starting gate in the NDP leadership race and some of his star-struck colleagues are embracing him as the latest hands-on favourite.

I want to caution westerners, especially of the leftist, socialist persuasion, of the legacy of this three-year wonder as premier of the province of British Columbia. This is a man who doubled the salaries of the premiers and the MLAs as his first order of business. This is the man who said, when asked about borrowing money from a foreign country, "I am not here to pass moral judgment on the world, a buck is a buck". Does this mean that he would advocate doing business with South American drug barons or Libya or South Africa?