

supermarkets as far as the application of the sales tax is concerned.

Others have expressed concern that the proposed tax rate is too high and should be lowered. Still others propose that the tax be abandoned altogether.

I am confident that the government has been listening and will continue to listen carefully to these representations and others and will make the right decision so that the proposed goods and services tax will be as equitable as possible.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, although women have entered the workforce in record numbers over the past few years, their income levels are still only 60 per cent of their male counterparts. Economic security is still a dream for many women and this is especially true for those who are retired or are entering retirement age.

[*Translation*]

In many cases, women who have chosen the more traditional role of homemaker do not have access to the private pension plans which are essential to a decent retirement. Because most of them count on their husband's income and the financial plans he made, they can quickly find themselves in poverty if they are suddenly widowed or some other misfortune strikes. Four out of ten households headed by women in Canada are poor.

[*English*]

A recent report by the National Council of Welfare stated that the disparity of benefits paid to men and women under the Canada Pension Plan is increasing. Instead of introducing regressive pension clawback schemes, this government should be concentrating on programs to improve the quality of pension plans for women.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, as Canadians, we are most fortunate. For the most part, we can send our children to school, go shopping, go to work, and go about our normal daily lives

in relative security. We are free of the terror and horror that disrupts daily life in so many countries around the world. Only when terror and horror strikes close to home do we realize how fortunate we are as Canadians. This has been the case in my home province of New Brunswick.

Over the past number of months, as convicted murderer and prison escapee Alan Legere terrified, brutalized and horrified residents of the Miramichi, we were not at ease. I am pleased to report that Alan Legere has been captured and hopefully life in the communities along the Miramichi will gradually return to the quality and standard that we take for granted in this great nation of ours.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, November 25 is the eighth annual International Day to End Violence Against Women. This day was initiated by women in Latin America in 1981 and is now celebrated with marches and demonstrations throughout the world. The threat of violence against women is a growing phenomena in the developing world.

In Mexico, a woman is raped every nine minutes. More than 80 million African women and girls are victims of various forms of genital mutilation. In El Salvador women have banded together within the National Coordinating Council of Salvadoran Women known as CONAMUS. Under the shadow of civil war, CONAMUS organized the women of El Salvador and established clinics for battered women and women who have suffered sexual assault. On November 15, in response to the good work of CONAMUS, the Salvadoran military raided and looted their office and destroyed their clinic.

One in ten Canadian women will be abused by her partner. As we mark this special day it is important to remember that violence against women is an ever-increasing problem in Canada and throughout the world.

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[*Translation*]

NATIVE PEOPLES

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Pope John Paul II granted an audience to the delegation from the Attikamek—Montagnais Council of Quebec and assured