

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, again I think we have another example of the Leader of the Opposition trying to ride two horses. For the last two weeks he has been railing away about the fact that this tax is invisible. In fact, it is. But all he is saying to us is that he wants to go back to the highly invisible tax—

An Hon. Member: That he is responsible for.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —the very arbitrary, capricious tax, the same tax that he administered when he was Minister of Finance. He wants to go back to a tax which has 22,000 separate deals between Revenue Canada and individual taxpayers.

Mr. Mulroney: Shame.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): That is the mess we are trying to get away from. Surely the Hon. Leader of the Opposition understands that.

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TOURISM**EFFECT OF NEW SALES TAX**

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for tourism. The tourist industry of Canada, Ministers of Tourism in every province and now the respected Conference Board of Canada have indicated that the 9 per cent sales tax will penalize the tourist industry by \$1 billion a year. Since 80 per cent of tourist activity in this country is by Canadians themselves, what does the Minister intend to do to prevent such a substantial loss of revenue, the erosion of confidence and international competitiveness in our tourist industry?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that three weeks ago I met with the provinces and the Conference Board made their presentation. It is interesting to note that the Conference Board presentation made it clear that after four or five years the tourist industry will be better off with the goods and services tax. That is even without seeing the improvements that will obviously come in the technical paper as well.

*[Translation]***REFUNDS—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, we know that the Minister does not intend to renew the marketing contracts or agreements with the provinces, especially the Eastern provinces. Does the Minister at least intend to respond to the requests of the tourism industry for rebates for tourists visiting our country?

[English]

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well that through the goods and services tax we will enhance our exports as a country. One of our exports is, in fact, tourism.

Ms. Copps: Tourists?

Mr. Hockin: In other words, it is an export because we attract Americans, Europeans and Asians to Canada. As a result of the goods and services tax, not only will we be in a stronger position in three or four years after the tax is implemented, more important, there will be special approaches within the tax that the Minister of Finance will announce, which will also address the problem, I am sure.

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*[Translation]***ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****REQUEST AS TO HOW MANY CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS ARE SUBJECT OF INVESTIGATIONS**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General.

According to a newspaper today, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is investigating a Conservative MP. According to another newspaper, the RCMP is conducting two investigations regarding two Conservative MPs. And according to a third newspaper, there may be more.

Would the Solicitor General tell the House of Commons how many investigations and how many Members of Parliament?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I am a little surprised by my colleague's question. With his experience, he knows very well that it is not customary for the Solicitor General to comment on investigations