

is silent. Those who aspire to political leadership must stand up and be counted on the great issues of the day.

Mr. Chrétien, where do you stand on the Meech Lake Accord? Yes or no, Mr. Chrétien? Yes or no?

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, tourism operators across Canada have complained that the goods and services tax will make it more difficult for them to compete with their American counterparts.

What about the American counterparts who own resort facilities right here in Canada? Canadian-owned operations right next door to American-owned facilities operating in Canada are stuck with the 7 per cent GST while their American neighbours get off scot-free.

Here is how it works. Many fishing and recreation resorts on the west coast of Canada are American-owned and offer U.S. customers package vacations paid for at their U.S. outlet. They even fly in all their supplies. Because the client pays the money at the U.S. office, he is exempt from the GST which must be paid by a Canadian firm. This puts legitimate Canadian resorts at a 7 per cent disadvantage and puts a lie to the Tory promise of a level playing field. Just like free trade, the GST is going to kill initiative and harm our tourism industry.

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• (1410)

LIBERAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Madam Speaker, the man who this weekend intends to become leader of the national Liberal Party, Jean Chrétien, remains completely silent about the greatest recent national issue, the Meech Lake Accord.

Mr. Chrétien, where do you stand? There will be no place in history for those who in times of great crisis strive to maintain their neutrality. Your leadership rival, the member for LaSalle—Émard, says there are 26 million Canadians who have an opinion on the accord and are prepared to express it. Mr. Chrétien is the only

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one who is not. Mr. Chrétien, come out of the storm cellar. Do you support Meech Lake, yes or no?

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[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Consumers' Association of Canada for dissociating itself from the Government's blatant interference by quickly accepting Mr. Nickolas Murray's resignation as its president.

By appointing Mr. Murray as head of the new GST consumer information office without first asking him to resign his position, the government had created a conflict of interest situation with its underhanded interference with the affairs of an independent organization.

[English]

Not only did the government attempt to undermine the Consumers' Association of Canada's credibility, it also managed to embarrass itself once again by creating a legally impotent government agency. The Conservative government has once again deceived Canadian consumers by attempting to appease them rather than to protect their interests.

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[Translation]

QUEBEC MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Madam Speaker, the Quebec Mining Association's annual meeting has been going on in Montebello since yesterday, on the theme "Quebec's mines in their world and in the world".

Three major thrusts were defined for the future of the Quebec mining industry in the next few years.

Development of new gold mining techniques: the top priority will be the development of a veinstone mining technique.

Replenishment of reserves of common metals: the main resources that now exist will be depleted in the next three to five years and exploration must be undertaken immediately.

Major improvements must be made in the areas of health, safety and the environment. Although the Quebec mining industry is doing a great deal in these areas, much still remains to be done.