

Oral Questions

Security and, if they are eligible, Canada Pension Plan benefits.

I am proud to acknowledge that no nation—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's time has expired.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, Canadians can now vote against the proposed goods and services tax. Starting today the Liberal party is calling on all Canadians to join a week long electronic telephone campaign against the imposition of this regressive and obscene tax grab.

You can register your opposition to the GST by dialing the anti-GST hot line, 1-900-720-6052, 24 hours a day from today until Friday, March 16. For a mere 50 cent toll charge Canadians can personally count themselves in to the growing movement across this country that is saying no to this unprecedented raid on their pockets.

The Liberal party is now giving Canadians from coast to coast an opportunity to tell this government once more with feeling "Axe this tax". Just dial the anti-GST hot line at 1-900-720-6052. That is 1-900-720-6052. Do it today!

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, more and more Canadians are starting to ask the very simple question: where does the Liberal Party stand in terms of the GST if they are elected after the next election campaign? We have one candidate who says she will scrap the tax. There is one candidate who says a flat tax. There is one candidate, Jean Chrétien, who says: "Well, I don't know what I would do". Now, according to the *Winnipeg Free Press*, there is a prominent Liberal leadership candidate who says he would retain the GST. "It would be irresponsible to repeal the tax at that point", says Tom Wappel, a leadership candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest Canadians should telephone the Leader of the Opposition's office to ask where the Liberal party stands on the GST. The phone number is

Area Code 613, number 996-5084. Call the Leader of the Opposition. Ask where to call.

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COMMONWEALTH DAY

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Commonwealth Day and it is very fitting that we welcome the joining of Namibia on March 21 as the fiftieth member of the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty, The Queen, is head of the Commonwealth. I would like to read two brief paragraphs from her message:

Every year, when we celebrate Commonwealth Day, it reminds me that we are celebrating something which is quite unique. Nothing quite like the Commonwealth has ever been created or evolved before. Its comparative lack of rules, its human richness and its geographical diversity, make the Commonwealth as hard to define as it is easy to criticize—it appeals to the young as much as to the old, to peoples and nations at all phases of political, economic, cultural and social development, to reformers and lovers of tradition alike.

On Commonwealth Day especially we greet each other as members of the biggest and most unusual family on earth.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and it relates to the government's policy for improving Canada's science and technology performance, in particular the role to be played by the National Research Council of Canada.

The new president of the NRC wrote last month to the Chair of the Science Council that the National Research Council: "intends to limit its involvement in basic research—to that required to maintain a minimal scientific insurance policy for the nation".

Does the Acting Prime Minister agree with his new NRC president that the NRC should play a minimal role in science and, at this time in Canada's history, why is the government forcing the NRC to play such a minimal role?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, the government is not forcing the National Research Council to do anything. The National Research Council is doing exactly what it should do. It should review its mandate from time to time. It should recog-