

human rights activists were detained by police ahead of similar memorial activities.

These events do not greatly inspire confidence in the policy of glasnost, but one must hope for future change.

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SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM

ISSUANCE OF CHEQUES TO ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS

Mr. Sid Fraleigh (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, contrary to some reports by members of the opposition, the Special Canadian Grains Program is running smoothly and cheques are being delivered to producers as quickly as possible. By the end of March, approximately 33,000 producers outside the Wheat Board area were issued first payments based on last year's acreage. Those who have not received cheques are Ontario producers with soybean acreage in 1987. Their payments will be issued by the end of April based on last year's applications.

This delay was unavoidable because of the shift in production patterns from winter wheat and corn to soybeans between 1986 and 1987. Due to this changing cropping pattern, first instalment payments for producers with soybean acreage could not be based on 1986 program records. The shift in production was first noted by the producer associations, and after discussions with them and other producers it was decided to base this year's program on 1987 claims. Delays in the first payment issue were considered preferable to making overpayments.

Every effort is being made to ensure that funds are in these producers' hands before spring seeding operations to provide cash flow to assist with the 1988 plantings.

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COMMUNICATIONS

EFFECT OF TAX ON NORTHERN RESIDENTS

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, once again rural and northern Canadians are being treated unfairly by the Government's policies. As a result of the 10 per cent telecommunications tax imposed on January 1 of this year, local and long distance calls made from mobile telephones are taxed, even though local calls from regular telephones are not.

For many people who live in the North and rural areas, a mobile phone is not a luxury, it is a complete necessity. By definition, every call to your child's school, the doctor, the dentist or to your neighbour is a long distance call when you live in a rural area. For safety reasons alone, many northerners feel it is crucial to have a mobile phone in their vehicle, on their trapline, or in their cabins. Others need mobile phones

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because their livelihood takes them to remote areas where other phones are not available.

It is completely absurd and grossly unfair that mobile phone calls in the North or remote areas are taxed. I urge the Government to remove this unfair tax. We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair treatment.

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[*Translation*]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

SALE OF SENNETERRE STATION

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the sale of the Canadian Forces Station in Senneterre was announced on March 8, 1988. This sale is part of the program to shut down 17 stations on the CADIN/Pinetree line announced in 1985.

Since the shutdown of this base was announced, I have cooperated very closely with the recovery committee, the town council, Canadian Forces representatives, employees of the base and Public Works Canada.

The Town of Senneterre has sought to acquire this property, considering it to be an important element of its economic development policy.

I would like to mention the outstanding work done by Major Gabriel Tremblay, Mayor Denis Sawyer, the town councillors, Roger St-Pierre, Jean Roy, president of the community development project, and the town's general manager, Yvon Boucher.

Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence in the ability of the Town of Senneterre to put this magnificent station to excellent use.

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[*English*]

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK IN ONTARIO

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, this week, the week of April 11 to April 15, is Local Government Week in the Province of Ontario. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. John Eakins, for taking this initiative which is in its fourth year. The Parliamentary Assistant to Mr. Eakins, Mr. David Neumann, the Member of the Provincial Parliament for Brantford, is in the Ottawa area promoting this particular initiative. He is visiting Ottawa, Kemptville, Merrickville, Brockville, among other municipalities, in order to promote Local Government Week.