

## S. O. 31

nightmare to a successful conclusion. We are fortunate indeed to have such people in our police forces.

I also want to congratulate the people of Miramichi for their stoicism in the face of this awful nightmare.

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• (1100)

## THE ELDERLY

**Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta):** Mr. Speaker, the B.C. government and the pharmacists have instituted a program of voluntary drug review for our senior citizens. In one case, a senior had 48 bottles of pills on hand. This may occur when old prescriptions are not discarded, when the medications are changed or discontinued, or as a result of different doctors prescribing medications for the same patient.

The elderly are much more likely to develop adverse reactions and be much more sensitive to medications, particularly sedatives and tranquillizers. They are also more likely to be confused as to the directions and may have difficulty remembering if they have taken the medication.

This program is designed to eliminate inadvertent, excessive and duplicate drug use. I would encourage all governments, pharmacists and doctors across Canada to work together to protect the elderly in this way.

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## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, the fight to save VIA Rail continues across this country. Following on the heels of the Standing Committee on Transport's report that recommended a moratorium on the VIA Rail cuts, rallies are springing up across this country. In Windsor, in Toronto, and yesterday in Vancouver, union members and Canadians rallied in support of rail passenger services.

A group is travelling to North Bay this weekend; troubadours, labour leaders and other Canadians, to point out to the government that VIA Rail is important, it must be maintained.

I want the Minister of Transport to reconsider. In order to assist him in reconsidering, I have booked passage from Ottawa to Toronto, Monday morning, train No. 41, a ticket in my name and a ticket in the name of the Minister of Transport. I would like him to join me,

ride to Toronto, talk to the people who use VIA Rail and find out what they think about his decision to cut their services and then he can catch a plane back with me to Ottawa so we can be here for Question Period.

The minister has a ticket to ride, but does he care?

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[Translation]

## NATIONAL AWARENESS—DRUG ADDICTION

**Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, this is National Drug Awareness Week and it is important for each and every one of us, whatever our field of activity, to combine our efforts to fight the scourge of the various forms of drug addiction.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, I would point out an important event that I chaired at the beginning of this week, namely the first regional conference on addiction, organized by *Unité Domrémy Lamater*, which brought together more than a hundred participants from all backgrounds—educational, cultural, social, industrial—to be better informed, but especially to establish a joint regional strategy and thus better reach the target population.

It was a success and I wish to mention the outstanding work done by the president of *Unité Domrémy Lamater*, Pierre Sigouin, and by Noël Beaupré and their whole team.

Mr. Speaker, addiction knows no boundaries and everyone must get involved.

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[English]

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey):** Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the present manufacturers' sales tax works in favour of imports from other countries, creating jobs there at the expense of the Canadian labour force. That is why this tax must be replaced with a new proposed GST tax. In this regard, I have received petitions and correspondence from many people and businesses in my riding pointing out some of the inequities in the proposed tax.

In particular, many ask that all pre-cooked and ready-to-eat food to be consumed at home be treated the same whether purchased in fast food outlets, groceries or