

*Business of the House*

Officials from the Minister's own office have said that this tax may be refundable, partially refundable, or not refundable, depending on who you speak to.

Home buyers and home builders deserve to know what is going on so that they can make their decisions. Will the Minister tell this House how the goods and service tax will be reimbursed? Will it be fully rebatable or partially rebatable according to an income test?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that is a valid question. It is a matter that has been discussed with the industry on an ongoing basis since I made the commitment last September or October that the new goods and services tax would not be a burden to the affordability of housing.

We are studying precisely the ways of implementing that commitment. Once we have the technical paper out later this month, that information will be available.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise Hon. Members that the time for Question Period has expired. The Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**POINT OF ORDER****CORRECTION TO THE RECORD**

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In my first and considerably briefer response to the questions from the Member from Saanich—Gulf Islands (Ms. Hunter), I used the word "facts" when I intended to use the word "allegations". I apologize to the Member and the House for the mistake.

**Mr. Speaker:** The point of order from the Hon. Member for Port Moody—Coquitlam (Mr. Waddell).

\* \* \*

**POINT OF ORDER****REPRESENTATION CONCERNING USE OF HOT LINE ON CHINA**

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order with respect to the Minister's hot line on China. I do so in a non-partisan way in keeping with the debate that we had in the House last week.

There is a Professor Norman Robinson from Simon

Fraser University who is missing in China. He was at the University of Beijing since May 27. He has not been heard from by his wife.

His wife called the hot line. There was a quick response from the hot line in the sense of getting through, but no response afterward. I found out independently that in fact the Minister's Department, as it so often does very well, was making the appropriate enquiries but it had not found out anything. I urge the Minister to consider arranging that his officials inform the families even if nothing has been found out. I think it would be very helpful in the operation of the hot line.

As well, I would hope the Minister might, since he is a House of Commons person, perhaps give a statement later on—

**Mr. Speaker:** It may very well be that the Minister may want to give a statement. I think in the interests of other Hon. Members who also may want to proceed with the debate, we will have to interrupt the Hon. Member because that point of order is getting beyond being a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member for Port Moody rise on another point?

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, I think you misunderstood me. I did not mean now. I meant perhaps next week during ministerial statements, the Minister might be able to give a statement on the operation of the hot line and Canadians still missing in China.

\* \* \*

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****WEEKLY STATEMENT**

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** I would like to ask about the business the Government intends to call for the coming week. In that connection and in line with its responsibilities through having the majority of Members in the House, I want to ask the Government what it can do to ensure that the Energy Committee of this House begins to operate.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!