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Telephone subscribers in urban areas can get in touch with hundreds of thousands of other people without paying long distance charges. But in such rural areas as mine, that of Argenteuil—Papineau and others, even calling neighbours generally entails long distance charges.

This morning I was talking to constituents of mine, Claudette and Gérald Laplante of Sarsfield, who told me their monthly phone bill amounts to \$80, \$5 for basic service plus \$75 in additional charges.

Residents of rural areas were held up to ridicule by the Minister of Finance yesterday, and they are not about to forget it. The people of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and Argenteuil—Papineau do not like these measures, Mr. Speaker, and they will say so to the Minister of Finance.

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[English]

### TAX REFORM

WHITE PAPER—EFFECT ON WESTERN CANADIANS

**Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo—Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, it was quite interesting last night to watch opposition Members and other government critics try to turn good news into bad.

Tax reform means fairness in the taxation system for Canadians, and western Canadians in particular.

A quarter million western Canadians will be relieved of federal income tax and over three million western Canadian taxpayers will enjoy an income tax reduction. As well, the forestry and fisheries and agriculture sectors will have the lowest average tax rates in the Canadian economy under our tax reform package.

How dare the NDP and the Liberals attack a plan that brings fairness to our taxation system! After spending the last 20 years spending more than they took in and clogging up our economy, they have decided to blame the roto-rooter man.

The fact of the matter is that interest rates are down, the deficit is down, inflation is down, and now taxes are going down. The Canadian economy is booming.

As a matter of fact, last night one British Columbian I spoke with suggested that we have a new national bird—not the Canada Goose the Liberals were flying across our television screens, not the left-wing loon, but the crane, as in construction crane, to show what good government does for the Canadian economy.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

EL SALVADOR—RE-EMERGENCE OF DEATH SQUADS

**Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, in El Salvador the death squads have openly and brazenly re-emerged. They have written to 14 professors and students of the National University, threatening to kill them if they do not leave the country at once.

The Duarte Government has, throughout its term of office, completely failed to prosecute any of the murders or disappearances conducted by the death squads with military participation.

Although the Canadian Government has claimed that human rights are being restored in El Salvador, the increasing attacks on trade unionists, academics, and human rights spokespersons prove that the Canadian Government is mistaken in this regard.

Now that the death squads have re-emerged with open, brazen threats, I call upon the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) or the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to denounce this open breach of human rights, to denounce the failure of the Duarte Government to correct it, and to withdraw Canada's support from the Duarte Government.

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### TAX REFORM

WHITE PAPER—SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONS

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, the Government's tax reform is a comprehensive package with all parts working together. It comes in two stages. Personal and corporate reform takes effect in 1988. Sales taxes will proceed after consultation with the provinces and Canadians.

It means lower rates for individuals and businesses, as well as a simplified rate structure, and it is a fairer system.

Tax deductions are converted to tax credits; 850,000 more Canadians will pay no federal tax, and some will receive refunds; 8 out of 10 households will pay less tax, on an average of \$475 less; and 9 out of 10 senior citizens will pay less tax. Corporate and sales tax changes will help to fund these changes. The agriculture, logging, and fishing sectors, after tax reform, will have the lowest tax rates.

All in all, it is a good package for all Canadians by a good Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).