

*Oral Questions*

## FEDERAL FUNDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that constitutional research financing for the national aboriginal groups expires tomorrow. He also knows that without such funding they will have to break up their teams of constitutional experts.

As a sign of the Government's commitment to ongoing constitutional participation by the national aboriginal organizations, will the Prime Minister authorize supplementary funding so they are able to keep up their efforts?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, may I say, in fairness to the Government and predecessor Governments, that no one would accuse a Parliament of Canada of having lacked in generosity in regard to the funding of constitutional research and preparation required by native groups, which is the way it ought to be. Quite properly, substantial amounts of public funds have been allocated to this purpose over the last number of years.

I would be happy to review the point raised by my hon. friend because it would be quite important and consistent that native groups have the necessary funds to make their case effectively and well.

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## TAX REFORM

## WHITE PAPER—EFFECT OF SALES TAX

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the Acting Minister of Finance said a few moments ago that there would be a lump sum payment given by the Government to the working poor and those people on fixed incomes, to make up for the huge sales tax increases to be implemented by the Government. Upon examination, we find that the lump sum payment is not even enough to buy a good lumpfish in Newfoundland.

Does he not realize that the new sales tax increases are going to add an additional burden on these people throughout the year? How does he expect them to live under new sales taxes when they cannot even make it today? They are used to getting hammered and nailed by the Government, but this is a sledgehammer, and they are getting the shaft.

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, it is easy to tell the Hon. Member how I expect that to occur. First, the federal sales tax credit which will be generous, the child tax credit, and the lower rate of tax throughout our White Paper reforms will produce far more income at that level than presently exists.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the sneaky summer snack attack starts in two days. There is a

tax on potato chips, popcorn, and popsicles. On January 1 everything will be taxed in the household, including the kitchen sink. We hear the phrase: "Reach out and touch someone". The Minister is reaching out already and has his hands in everyone's pocket. Why does the Government want to worry the people further by saying it may now tax their food in the grocery store, the clothing on their backs, their heating fuel and their electricity?

The Minister of Finance said that all of this is to replace "this crazy quilt of taxation". Does the Minister not realize that the crazy quilt will now be replaced by a crazy carpet? The Government is on it, and they are both headed downhill.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the reason we are bringing in the federal sales tax reduction is to lower the cost of sales tax charges on the truck that delivers his popsicles, to lower the level of tax on the fuel that goes into the truck that delivers his popsicles, and to lower the federal sales tax which right now is between 11 per cent and 12 per cent on kitchen sinks.

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

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[Translation]

## YOUTH

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the so-called youth spokesperson, the Minister of State for Youth, and it is very simple. Where is his program, his youth policy he promised on a number of occasions since he was appointed a year ago?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Windsor—Walkerville is no doubt aware that for approximately a year, the Minister of State (Youth) has been operating within the Department of Employment and Immigration, that since that time the Canadian Government has been using 25 per cent of its *Youth Innovation Program*—that a \$10 million initiative was announced with Canada's YMCA's, \$4 million for *Youth Employment Skills of Canada*, that approximately half of the total Job Strategy budget—something like over \$700 million are going to youth, and that moreover, youth unemployment in Canada declined 4.3 per cent since we came to power.

[English]

## COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM QUERY

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. All of that sounds kind of sweet, but it does not answer the question. On March 3, March 11, and March 26,