

Oral Questions

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the hon. member and her colleagues on that side of the House that they should make maximum use of the recess we are going to have next week to study very carefully the technical documents that we have produced, because day after day we get questions.

Yesterday it was on transportation when we know that companies can get a full tax input for their transportation. Today it is on electricity when we know that lower income people will have more money in their pockets after reform than they had before.

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, it is a pity that that information would not be readily available on the minister's own GST hot line.

According to the Municipal Electrical Association of Ontario, on hydro utilities costs from the manufacturers' sales tax are less than 1 per cent of purchased goods. In Ontario alone, 1991 electrical sales will be \$8 billion.

The difference between a minus 1 per cent MST and a plus 7 per cent GST on service is astronomical and is yet another indication of this government's lack of concern for the people of Canada. Where is the conscience of this government that it will overcharge on a very essential service to Canadians?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to inform the hon. member that we have done some very accurate studies on the impact of tax reform, particularly on low-income Canadians. We are prepared to guarantee our findings to the effect that a family with an income below \$30,000 will be better off after the tax reform. If the hon. member is able to produce figures that indicate the opposite, she should do so.

* * *

[*English*]

1991 CENSUS

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Statistics Canada.

The 1986 census contained four questions concerning disabled Canadians. These questions have been used by

Statistics Canada to produce data for the government and private sector to ensure that services are provided for disabled Canadians.

Will the minister tell the House if he intends to include questions regarding the disabled in the 1991 census, and what will these questions be?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the precise questions for the 1991 census have not yet been put together. Discussions are under way with all of the users of StatsCan data.

The questions in terms of disabled Canadians and so on will be included if that is the recommendation that comes back after discussions with the people who would use this data.

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, the minister would not tell the House what questions concerning disabled Canadians will be on the census. Statistics Canada will not tell us what questions will be on the census, and the minister's staff tells us that it is top secret. Why all the secrecy?

My supplementary question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government afraid that the questions it intends to include in the census will not satisfy the concerns that disabled Canadians want addressed in the census? Is this another example of this government's back room, closed door decision making?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is right. I cannot tell her the questions that will be on the 1991 census for the very simple reason, as I explained in my first reply to her, that the questions have not been decided upon yet. They will be decided upon after full discussion with all of the users of the data.

The hon. member has been watching old films of the rat pack. Why this accusatory tone in her questioning? This is silly.

* * *

• (1440)

FISHERIES

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, despite denials by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans about the secret Pacific fisheries policy called Vision 2000, his department