

*S. O. 31*

[*Translation*]

### COMMONWEALTH GAMES ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

**Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, last week the Quebec Superior Court ruled in favour of coach Daniel St-Hilaire, ordering him to be reinstated as coach.

As ordered, the Canadian Track and Field Association submitted St-Hilaire's name to the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the latter association decided, on the basis of a time technicality, to ignore St-Hilaire and deny him accreditation to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, leaving this national coach to sleep in a car across from the stadium and denying him access to the stadium where the games are held.

Mr. Speaker, I deplore the lack of courtesy shown by the executive of the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada, and I see this situation as humiliating for all Canadians. In the circumstances, I hope that the Association will soon take steps to remedy this intolerable state of affairs, which would be in the best interests of amateur sport in this country.

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[*English*]

### IMMIGRATION

**Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the Minister of Employment and Immigration to help the refugee claimants who are in the so-called backlog, who came to Canada because of its good reputation, yet find themselves caught up in an inhumane Kafakaesque system.

I have met with many of these people. Their situation is desperate. Their lives are on hold. They wait, and they wait and they wait.

A Canadian citizen who befriended a young Iranian family put it this way: "They are treated by our society as less than second-class citizens; they work at underpaid, unstimulating jobs; they cannot study or take training programs; they do not qualify for family allowances; they have absolutely no control over their own lives; and they have virtually no hope of improving their future prospects. I anguish for them and must ask whether Canada cannot do better.

Canada owes it to these human beings and to herself to hasten the refugee claimant process".

That is what I ask the Minister of Immigration to do—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that the hon. member's time has expired.

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### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance on devising what must be the most popular tax in Canadian history.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Casey:** The media is saying that according to a recent poll, 19 per cent of Canadians are in favour of the GST. I find that incredible.

• (1410)

If Canadians were polled on whether or not they wanted to pay income tax I think 100 per cent would be against it. If Canadians were asked if they wanted to pay property tax or provincial sales tax I think 100 per cent would be against it, but 19 per cent of Canadians are in favour of GST. This is a compliment to the Minister of Finance but also an indication that people are beginning to see that the FST must go and that the GST is necessary to ensure that Canadian business is competitive in a global market that is becoming even more competitive every day.

The GST is not the ogre it is being made out to be. Neither will it perform miracles. But it is just one piece of a puzzle that will help us maintain our economy and, perhaps, recapture some of the manufacturing we have lost over many years.

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### THE HOMELESS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, this winter we have seen pictures of Canadians sleeping on a bench, on the ground, over grates, in cities from coast to coast. The sight of the homeless is shocking. It makes us realize that something is wrong with our priorities. There are people in our midst who are not able to look after themselves. Society as a whole must look after them.