

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, as community, government and indeed our world continues the vital struggle to protect our environment, I was pleased to note projects approved under the New Environmental Partners Fund. My constituency of Delta is the recipient of a \$5,000 grant shared equally with a funding partner, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to preserving and increasing wildlife populations.

The Boundary Bay Raptorial Bird Habitat in Delta puts into practice what many of us teach in encouraging, preserving for future generations and making available to the public many of the wonders of creation, particularly relating to natural habitat and a variety of bird species which might otherwise face extinction.

The \$50 million Environmental Partners Fund announced in June 1989 covers a five-year period and provides funding for up to 50 per cent of a project's total value. Our Environment Minister's goal is to tap the creative talents of Canadians and establish community oriented environmental projects. It is encouraging to see co-operation between government and community resulting in the protection of our increasingly valued natural environment.

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[*Translation*]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, the GST is now the most important issue in Canada. As you know, the government proposed a 7 per cent tax on goods and services and the Canadian people are against it. The NDP has a very clear alternative, but the Liberal Party has none. This is the situation two months after the Finance Committee tabled its report.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday in Toronto, there were six candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party. Everyone was against the GST, but no candidate proposed an alternative to the system put forward by the government. The public has a right to know the policy of

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the Liberal Party of Canada. Please, Mr. Speaker, an alternative!

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has many reasons to change the present federal sales tax. We know very well that the present tax is old, it is hidden in many cases, it hurts many categories of our manufactured products, it gives goods made abroad an advantage on our domestic markets, it is discriminatory and it has too many exemptions.

The goods and services tax now being debated in the House of Commons corrects all of this. It favours our industry; it will benefit the auto trade. It provides assistance to Canadian small and medium-sized businesses in adjusting to the new regime and gives generous refunds to people on middle incomes and to seniors.

It is our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to put Canada in step with the world economy by passing Bill C-62 quickly.

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[*English*]

FISHERIES

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour): Mr. Speaker, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers annual convention in Vancouver gives all Canadians the opportunity to witness the demise of the fish processing industry on the west coast.

Union officials are saying that the herring processing industry is completely exposed by the recent free trade panel ruling. Processing employs about 10,000 people, jobs have already disappeared and there is a possibility that 80 per cent to 90 per cent of these jobs leave Canada for the U.S.

In Atlantic Canada, free trade did not protect our lobster industry; some of our lobsters are now excluded from the American market. On both the west coast and the east coast Canadians have been abandoned by a government more preoccupied by trade theories than by the well-being of its people. Jobs are being exported to the U.S. along with our herring. The Americans are building a processing industry using Canadian fish because this government has failed to protect Canadian processing jobs.