

sities and colleges will be dependent on how each compares to the Canadian average and possibly might not receive full compensation for any tax changes.

How can the Minister of Finance justify placing an additional financial burden on educational centres already strapped with limited cash resources?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear that we have established an important and a generous principle. We have said that this sector, in aggregate, will not pay any additional tax over what it is now paying through the federal sales tax, the existing manufacturers' sales tax. That is something that we are discussing.

The means of implementing it is currently being discussed with the provinces to see whether there are ways we can simplify it or ways that we can utilize some of the existing relationships among provinces, universities and colleges.

I believe the approach we are taking is a realistic one. It is one designed to reduce complexities.

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, every academic administrator right across this country has indicated that the Minister of Finance is wrong.

The response to me would also indicate that the government is not seriously committed to the education of our youth.

Would the minister not agree that to restrict or to hold back GST rebates to our educational institutions will ultimately transfer their cash flow problems on to the backs of the students of this country?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think hon. member listened to the answer I gave. She wrote that question before I gave the answer.

• (1500)

However, the point I want to make to her is that we are very much committed by the principle that we have established of not adding to the sales tax burden of this particular sector, so that what she is saying right now is incorrect. We are not doing this in a way that will transfer the burden to the students, because the burden will not be increased.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister who has in the past taken an interest in the topic of my question.

On the eve of a very critical session of the South African Parliament, South Africa is once again in turmoil because of a visit of British cricketers. Renewed demonstrations have taken place and the demonstrators have been confronted with violent and brutal activity on the part of the police because of concern about the potential release of Nelson Mandela.

My questions to the Prime Minister are the following. What representations has the Canadian government made with respect to these developments? What action does the government propose to take if there is a failure on the part of President de Klerk to announce specific action, such as the release of Nelson Mandela, and establish the conditions for appropriate negotiations to progress in the ending of apartheid?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, the Commonwealth Declaration put forth in October of 1985 was the basis on which the Commonwealth and other nations took actions against apartheid, involving as well a call for the release of Nelson Mandela. That appears now, after some period of time, to be imminent.

Events of the last number of days have been very troubling because they indicate that President de Klerk might have another agenda in mind. The government of Canada has communicated not only directly with the government of South Africa, but with appropriate leaders of the members of the ANC, both in South Africa and outside, including leaders of frontline states, in respect of developments. We have received communications in response and I will be happy to keep my hon. friend apprised as developments unfold.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, is the government prepared to indicate a specific deadline beyond which the Canadian government would impose additional sanctions? For example, would the government be prepared to respond to complaints from the Black United Front of Nova Scotia that the importation of T-shirts from South Africa constitutes an insult to the black community and impose, at least, a ban on the further importation of those T-shirts