precisely where those numbers are wrong. Otherwise she should not be leading senior citizens astray with this faulty information.

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, many studies, including the Canadian Seniors Network report, disagree. They say seniors living on a tight budget near or below the poverty level will pay still more under this 7 per cent goods and services tax.

An hon. member: Clothing, services, home repairs.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I might ask hon. members to allow the member to put her question.

Ms. Phinney: Mr. Speaker, the clawback makes pensioners pay more. The 7 per cent goods and services tax will make pensioners pay more. When will this government accept its responsibility to seniors by providing them with security and an adequate standard of living and promise them that once the rate is set at 7 per cent, it will remain at 7 per cent; not 7 per cent this year, 9 per cent next year and 11 per cent by 1992?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I hear again that the Liberal Party is supportive of continuing to pay seniors who are earning more than $50,000 for a program which we cannot afford. Surely the hon. member realizes the significance of the deficit and the debt problem that we are facing. Many seniors understand the significance of that. Many seniors have stated directly to me that they support our efforts to get the deficit down. That requires as broad a sharing of the burden as is possible.

• (1140)

For senior citizens, we have only asked those who are earning more than $50,000 to participate in sharing that burden. That amounts to 4.3 per cent of seniors to share partially and only 1.8 per cent of seniors will have to pay back, through the tax system, their full old age security payment. That, I think, is a fair approach to dealing with what we believe on this side of the House is a most serious problem and that is the problem of the debt of this country.

FINANCE

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously rendered a decision in the Hall case that allows chartered banks to repossess farm machinery, cars and other chattels that are in default without any notice and without any consideration to any other creditor. This means that there are two standards in this country, one for the chartered banks and one for the rest of Canadian lenders.

Will the minister ensure this House that it will introduce changes to the Bank Act by removing this unfair advantage so that the chartered banks are placed on the same level as any other financial institution such as credit unions and trust companies in terms of security and enforcement?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I hear the representation that the hon. member has made. This is a decision that has been rendered quite recently and, once we have had an opportunity to review that decision, we will be making known our views.

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary will be on a subject that was decided some time ago.

There are thousands of Canadians who have signed promissory notes at a given rate only to find that later the bank had unilaterally increased their interest rate. A number of legal decisions have already been rendered ordering the banks to repay these overcharges, estimated to be between $2 and $3 billion to farmers alone.

Will the government today put a freeze on the destruction of bank records which they are doing to hide the facts and when will it take steps to force the banks to pay back these overcharges?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there has been extensive discussion in past years on this particular issue. I think the hon. member is quite aware of the position that the government has taken. As regards the destruction of records, there are specific rules in the Bank Act. They vary from four to ten years. The hon. member will be able to participate in the discussion of the review of the Bank Act when the Bank