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Paper. In fact, some shared questions involving more than one department could exceed that \$8,000 figure.

None of us can question the fact that we have the right, indeed the responsibility, to be thorough, but we also have the obligation to set an example of fiscal responsibility.

When the issue is pertinent and the information relevant for an important issue and not readily available, we have the right to demand it and the government the responsibility to provide it.

However, in the name of common sense and fiscal responsibility, let each of us ask only those questions we truly need. For the sake of the taxpayer, let us consider the value of the question as well as the cost of the answer.

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[Translation]

BÉLANGER-CAMPEAU COMMISSION

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the men and women who sat on the Bélanger-Campeau Commission, particularly Bloc Québécois leader Lucien Bouchard.

A general consensus developed within this commission made up of various interests and groups, except for the Liberal Party Of Canada, the Progressive Conservative Party, and the Equality Party. Mr. Speaker, Quebec is serenely preparing for the future.

Within eighteen months Canada will have an opportunity to make formal offers to the people of Quebec. Ever more Quebecers are becoming aware that the referendum campaign has just begun and that, by October 26, 1992 at the latest, the majority of men and women in the province will vote in favour of the only realistic and practical option, sovereignty.

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[English]

EXPO 92

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the House to an article in today's edition of *The Ottawa Citizen* which describes the construction of Canada's pavilion at Expo 92 in Seville, Spain as being on time and on budget.

Mr. Gordon Smith, Canada's Deputy Commissioner General to Expo 92, is quoted as saying:

We're ahead because we're the best organized country here, we planned and made decisions early on.

I have in my possession an internal External Affairs document which paints a much different picture, a much costlier picture of the construction of the Canadian pavilion. Under the heading of immediate problem, the document says:

The situation today is that we are on time but not on budget, and we may need to return to TB for extra funding in the magnitude of \$10 million.

In fact, the budget for the Canadian pavilion at Expo 92 has been revised upward by \$2.4 billion in the 1990 Supplementary Estimates. This represents a 42 per cent increase in less than one year.

I hope the minister of external affairs will see fit to correct the misleading impression this story leaves in *The Ottawa Citizen* of the true cost of the Canadian pavilion and let Canadians know just how much of a financial bath we can expect to take.

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MINING

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what it is about the NDP. Whether we are talking about the member for Nickel Belt or his leader, the member for Yukon, they have got a bugaboo about the mining corporations not paying their fair share of taxes. In fact, the leader of the socialists began her questioning on Friday by suggesting that mining companies should pay more tax.

I know the leader was in downtown Toronto yesterday speaking to the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada at its annual meeting. I sincerely hope that she has learned something about the mining association. I hope she was listening to the men and women at the meeting.

She should have heard, I am sure, that the creators of wealth, the companies the NDP would like to hit hard with rising taxes, are certainly not in the best position to pay more new NDP taxes.

The business section of *The Globe and Mail* today said: "mining companies reeling: \$1.4 million writedowns resulted from weak gold prices and bad decisions".