

*Oral Questions***CHILD TAX CREDIT**

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, I will direct my question to the government House leader.

Given that there are only 49 days left until Christmas, and about 66,000 Canadian families which are expecting their child tax credits paid in advance as promised by the Minister of Finance, will he tell the House when he proposes to bring forward the legislation to authorize the advance payment of these child tax credits, given that the opposition is willing to expedite its passage?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there is an interest on the part of the opposition to expedite this piece of legislation, if not the rest of our legislative program. Certainly I am prepared to engage in those discussions.

I have one concern. It is something I would ask the hon. member to think about and perhaps come up with some suggestions. We can get it through this House all right with agreement on all sides, but what do we do with the other place, which is having difficulty even starting a debate on GST?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister has forgotten that his party commands a plurality in that House. He had no trouble recently getting through legislation that cut back on social programs. Perhaps he is afraid that Trevor Eyton and the boys will not pass this one.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Manley: Last week, we were trying to find out what the government proposed to do for the poor people of Canada in the face of the recession. Here is something they can do. Why will he not make a commitment to move forward on this legislation?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, of course we are committed to moving forward on this legislation.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Andre: The concern is not the senators in the plurality. It is Allan MacEachen, Royce Frith and his crowd that are holding things up over there.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Epp: The place of the living dead.

Mr. Andre: The concern of the hon. member for low income Canadians receiving their cheques before Christmas is well placed. I hope he remembers that part of the GST package is to send before Christmas—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Andre: —the sales tax rebates. I would hope their concern for these low income Canadians would extend to both the child tax credit and the GST tax rebate.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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RAFFERTY-ALAMEDA PROJECT

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina—Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the very serious matter of the Rafferty-Alameda project.

The minister will know that the premier of Saskatchewan has sworn that he informed the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff and the Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary about an agreement he concluded with the federal environment minister.

My question is this: Did Mr. Spector or the Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary inform the Prime Minister that the premier of Saskatchewan felt that he had an agreement with the Minister of the Environment? Was the Prime Minister aware?

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, again we are returning to the matter which was raised earlier in this House today with respect to a series of affidavits which have been filed before the court. It is the responsibility of that court to evaluate the material contained therein.

We assume that the court will reach its judgment on Wednesday, or shortly thereafter, in assessing the various affidavits.

The hon. member refers to the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff. Perhaps he might want to read that person's affidavit. He might want even to read it into the record of this House, because he will discover that the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff refers specifically to a proposal