

Routine Proceedings

First, in the area of increasing taxes, we all know that the GST, which is referred to in the budget that was introduced only a couple of days ago, will result in an extra \$1 billion a year in revenue. That is one tax.

Then we know from the minister's statement this morning about the so-called dividends of Crown corporations. So what do you do? Canada Post, for instance, increases the price of postage stamps. You take the revenue generated by the increase in postage stamps, call it a dividend and return it to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. That is a tax on postage. Call it what you like, that is what it is. That is another tax.

Then you cause the provinces to increase their taxes as well by cutting back on your contractual obligations with them. So the provinces have to increase the tax for the federal government.

I have just given three instances in which taxes are increased. And there are a lot more, of course.

There are countless ways in this budget, as well as in the effects of previous budgets which are just coming into force now, in which there are tax increases. So it is not accurate to state that there are no tax increases.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, in concluding, I would like to mention briefly some major cuts in the acid rain sector, where about \$20 million in funding will be slashed. As you know, this is a very important issue in my riding and the riding represented by the minister, and I am thinking of our mapletrees which require positive measures by all governments if they are to be saved, and when we see these cuts—

[English]

Let me say in conclusion, as one of my colleagues told me only a few moments ago, this government always wants to compare itself with the private sector. If this government were the management team in any Crown corporation or in any private corporation for that matter, the shareholders would have turfed them out of office a long time ago. Judging by the present popularity of the government at 19 per cent, that is exactly what will happen.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, it is reported today that the standing of the government party is at the lowest level of any government party in the history of Canada. I would think this reflects the good sense of the Canadian people. Ordinarily,

polls are passing things that reflect reaction to one or two events. This morning we are seeing a poll that represents the reaction of Canadians to the sustained ripping at the fabric of Canada by this government. That shows wisdom.

This is a government that prides itself on efficiency, good management and God knows what all. In so many ways it offends its claimed status in that respect.

As I understand it, and I am not as experienced with this as my colleague, the member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, it seems to me that it is self-evident that the Estimates are tabled in order to give us some insight into the details of the changes in expenditure patterns that are contained in the budget.

I could not have imagined a greater farce than was experienced by those of us who were attending the lock-up this morning. Quite frankly, the lock-up was a total waste of time. All of the information we got in the lock-up we could have gone out in the hall and screamed to high heaven and nobody would have found a bloody thing new in anything we said because no new information was provided to us.

Ms. Black: Which was deliberate.

Mr. McCurdy: Whether it was deliberate or not, I do not know. We were crowded into a small room in which it was not even possible for all of us to sit at the table to gain the information necessary to exercise our critical judgment in respect to the information provided to us, had there been information provided to us.

But, Madam Speaker, if you consider where the greatest changes occurred in this budget, I would just like to reiterate what my colleague indicated earlier. We were denied 13 Part III Estimates, the detailed departmental estimates, for CIDA, Communications, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Energy, Mines and Resources, Finance, Fisheries and Oceans, Health and Welfare, Indian and Northern Affairs, Multiculturalism and Citizenship, National Defence, Industry, Science and Technology, the Secretary of State, Transport and Veterans Affairs.

• (1200)

This is inexcusable. This is an outrage, not just to the opposition, but to the people of Canada that they are denied the kind of critical judgment that should be imposed on what this government tables as the Esti-