

States. This creates a situation whereby our small businesses are unable to compete.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, the GST is the last nail in the coffin of a tax and monetary policy which is leading Canada for the first ever into a made-in-Canada recession. What is the Minister of Finance's response? Today, when asked about Canada's position during the negotiations on marketing boards for our major farm industry, how did his colleague the Minister of International Trade react? He just laughed. He said that we were giving our farm producers too much money. I heard him say that with my own ears.

Mr. Charest: Oh, oh!

Ms Copps: The former Minister, the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke, was not here, but I was. I heard Mr. Crosbie, with the support of the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister, tell our farm producers to their faces that the Government was giving them too many subsidies. I only hope he will make a speech in front of the UPA and say the same thing. Those who are sitting on Government benches and who understand our current policy on international trade realize now that the Government is about to kill the family farm in this country. With the Government's decision on dairy products, we know that thousands of jobs will be lost, not only in the province of Quebec, but everywhere in Canada, because of the milk quotas. And what is the Government's proposed remedy? It hits us all with its GST.

Through its monetary policy, it has created a situation where Canada, a country which has always been very dependent on external trade, is no longer able to compete with the United States because its real interest rates are five points higher than those in the United States. When businessmen and women think of making investments, where will they go? Certainly not here in Canada. And the Minister claims that he is doing everything in his power to rectify the Government's spending problem. But let me tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker. I have been trade critic of my party for hardly a few weeks now. I have been trying to get information concerning the billions of dollars paid by Canadian taxpayers to corporations which are now moving to the United States. You will not believe it, Mr. Speaker, but as elected Members of this House, we are not entitled to check the books of the various corporations which have

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received funds from Canadian taxpayers. We are being asked to dig ever deeper in our own pockets, which the corporations are not asked to do although they have received subsidies from the Federal Government. I suggest there is a certain inconsistency there.

• (1710)

[*English*]

There is a certain inconsistency about the government's position. I could through dozens and dozens of letters—and I am sure most members could—about the potential for human suffering that is being caused by this government's GST policy.

I should like to take just a couple of moments to point out some real flaws in the actual operation. I am sure most of us would believe, for example, that health matters should not be taxed. However, are you aware, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of the current policies of the GST you will be taxed if you take your dog to veterinary clinic to get a rabies shot? Do we really want to create a situation where to protect your children from being bitten by rabid dogs you have to pay a tax?

Some of us will know that the lime disease has recently come into full force in certain parts of southwestern Ontario and certain other parts of the country. We need to have policies that will permit officials and owners of pets, et cetera, to inoculate their pets, to be responsible pet owners. This particular policy basically says that anybody who owns a cat or dog is going to be taxed for simple prevention measures including spaying, vaccinations, et cetera.

We can see that not only are there inconsistencies in the application of the tax as it relates to hospitals which will have to pay tax on the certain goods and services that they purchase, but that will represent a tax upon a tax in the hundreds of millions of dollars in a sector that Canadians have always believed should be free of tax.

I know that the Minister of Finance is unlikely to support this resolution, but I would like to reiterate the plea that I make to his colleagues. This is a simple resolution that condemns a government policy that last week saw lay-off notices delivered to 8,500 employees across this country. Mr. Speaker, if you read the recently published book by Maude Barlow which was just launched on the weekend, there have been over 100,000