

*Government Orders*

pooh-poohed by the Minister of Finance and the leader of the party, saying he was not speaking for the government.

In closing, I simply say that I look to the Conservative think tanks to see what ideas that they might come up with. When I see the Fraser Institute advocating a poll tax, and when I see cabinet ministers and the Social Credit government in British Columbia, good Conservative members, saying they believe that this is the route to go, I become very concerned.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Resuming debate. The hon. member for Beauharnois—Salaberry.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I always wonder when taking part in and listening closely to debates in this House if hon. members are talking for an audience in the Gallery or on TV or just for the sake of having something afterword to stuff in their bulk mailings.

We hear all kinds of things. We hear for example that we will not be re-elected, we only have 17 per cent support. Well, as far as I can remember, Madam Speaker, in our first mandate I think we went down to 22, 23 per cent, I wont argue on one percentage—

**Mr. Gauthier:** You bought the election after that!

**Mr. Hudon:** No. We even went down to something like 12 per cent in Quebec. The most important survey is done five minutes before the election. From 57 Conservative members in Quebec, we went to 62 Conservative members in Quebec.

When people are asked: Do you support the GST or not? This is tantamount to asking people: Are you for or against taxes? Of course people will say: "No, I oppose that". But when it comes down to understanding how the system will work, everything will become much more interesting. So referring to 17 per cent does not make much sense in my view.

And if hon. members from the NPD from time to time lecture on those horrible tax loopholes, how come, Madam Speaker, when came the time to vote on the flow—through shares, one of the largest tax loopholes ever in support of the mining industry—I am on com-

plete agreement as to that—how come they supported it when we wanted to repeal it?

**Mr. Champagne (Champlain):** They even had an emergency debate on that.

**Mr. Hudon:** Indeed, Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Champlain suggests they even had an emergency debate on that. They are not listening because they are referring to the children's Bill of Rights. The children's Bill of rights was not enacted last week, we already have trouble enough maintaining a consistent position right now on the Canadian Charter of rights and freedoms and finding out what it implies. Before referring to a second charter, let us first implement the first one. And if they are so bright as to lecture us on the children's Bill of rights and develop a consistent position on it, Madam Speaker, why don't they develop a consistent and lasting position on Meech Lake? We can come up with new principles.

• (1840)

Same thing with the GST. So far I have given about 45 conferences on this tax without feeling any strong opposition to it except from groups that have not met with me. There is a case pending against the GST in the Beauharnois—Salaberry riding. It is happening everywhere. They are using the bishop of Valleyfield's paper, which he is sending everywhere, to mobilize people against the GST. They have taken over every golden age club I have met with one after the other. It is obvious. We will not ask people what they think. I will not ask my relatives whether they are for or against taxes. Everybody is against taxes. But it is not what they want to do. They do not really want a debate on the GST. They only want a bunch of signatures they can slam down on the Member's desk three weeks later saying: "See, your people are dead set against the tax." When did you ever give me the chance to defend myself and explain this project? Never. But we will not talk about that. Inconsistencies are not hard to find. I am anxious to see my colleagues from the Liberal Party.

I remember a debate that took place in Quebec during a referendum, a famous speech by the then Prime Minister Trudeau who talked about a "yes" that meant "no" and a "no" that meant "yes". Vote for the party and we will repatriate the Constitution in an honourable manner. We are putting our heads on the line. They even talked about the economic spin-offs from the F-18 contract that night. Yes, Quebec would get everything. Then the Conservative government came to power and gave the F-18 maintenance contract to Canadair in Quebec. Yesterday, in Winnipeg, their future leader