

Adjournment Debate

place. We hope all these problems will be dealt with, otherwise we will have our own problems with respect to our own spending in our day-to-day lives. As my wife told me not long ago, we just paid for our alarm system. The cost is spread over a period from September 1990 to September 1991, and not only were we charged the tax before 1991, but we were charged for 12 months, although the tax will not be in effect until January 1991, if then.

The problem we have today, although we tried not to get involved in any more of that unfortunately with everything that is happening, there is a real problem.

[English]

I would like to say to my hon. colleague that he can always read what I said. I will repeat it for the people who are listening. I would like to have on record again that the collection of GST for transactions straddling the transition date is strictly voluntary. Both have to agree, the consumer and the business involved.

This is what I did with all my people. We came to an agreement. Sometimes I got myself mad at my friend who charged me for 12 months of alarm service when he should charge me for 8 months. It is eight-twelfths of the invoice.

At the beginning it is a problem, but I think with the good faith of two persons an arrangement can always be negotiated. They must know that this is only on a voluntary basis. No one should charge. It is very clear.

I want my hon. colleague to read exactly what I said, as reported at pages 14918 and 14919 of *Hansard* for October 30. I presume that he and his colleague were asking for the same answers.

Even, to go through it briefly, I know that sometimes the consumer and the person in business were not present at the meetings. I know they did not always understand, but I do not blame them. It is new. I said to my people that it was new and that they would get used to it.

In the meantime, let us hope that the other chamber will make it easy for everyone.

TRADE

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, on October 19, I asked two questions in the House with regard to the economy of eastern Ontario.

One of the questions dealt squarely with the plight of the town of Renfrew which has lost a total of 1,667 jobs, a total of eight industries, and a reduction in others in the last couple of years. One of them goes back even beyond that, but it has been a constant ever since Mitel closed. The Government of Canada allowed the sale of Mitel to a British firm. It allowed that business to buy 51 per cent of the Canadian company, and it closed down the firm with 550 employees. Since then others have followed.

• (1920)

I was particularly concerned with the answer that the Minister for Science gave me that day; he was standing in for the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. He as much as said that I should be out looking for industry instead of asking questions in the House.

Over the past year or longer I have been working with the mayor of Renfrew, with the council, and with the industrial commission. I have had meetings with government departments in Ottawa, with many people, and with industries that we invited in to join us. I have been to Queen's Park in Toronto and met there. I have been south of the border to meet with people and I have travelled around this country.

I want to say to the minister for science that he had better give a more intelligent answer than that. He had better do his homework before he insults a member of this House who is doing his homework. I sometimes wonder why he was a president of a university when he stands in the House and acts the way he does.

Last summer, the hon. member for Stormont—Dundas, the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, and myself raised these issues of eastern Ontario. We held a news conference in which we provided accurate figures. However, for some strange reason the Minister of Supply and Services, who is supposed to be the fighter for eastern Ontario, stood and said afterward: "Well, the Liberal members have blown the economic situation in eastern Ontario out of proportion". Then he accused the Liberals of manufacturing figures.