

• (1810)

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I declare the motion lost. Orders of the Day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### EXCISE TAX ACT

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre) that Bill C-62, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act, the Criminal Code, the Customs Act, the Customs Tariff, the Excise Act, the Income Tax Act, the Statistics Act and the Tax Court of Canada Act, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance; and the amendment of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p.7569).

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Gloucester on debate.

**Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this motion, one of the things that strikes me the most is what we have heard from members opposite in the debate so far.

The comic strip may have passed into history wherein every now and then we would see General Bullmoose suggest that what is good for General Motors is good for the country.

In this particular matter, everybody else is wrong. Business, which is supposed to be helped by the goods and services tax is wrong when it is opposed to the GST—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. We are now in debate. If hon. members wish to discuss other projects, they could do it behind the curtain. The hon. member for Gloucester.

**Mr. Young (Gloucester):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, when the Federation of Independent Business states its opposition to the goods and services tax, it is because it does not understand or it has a vested

### *Government Orders*

interest, whatever the excuse might be given by members of the government to support the GST.

When the Canadian Labour Congress opposes the goods and services tax, it is because they do not understand. When chambers of commerce across the country state their opposition to the way the GST is being implemented and some of the implications of the GST, it is because they do not understand.

Today in the House I heard the minister speak on the matter, saying that tourism would be greatly helped by the GST and that the rebate system that was involved in it would be very helpful to tourism. However, the tourist industry states unequivocally that it is opposed to the GST. The stock answer for members opposite is that people do not understand. What we are faced with now in the House is an opportunity for the government to provide Canadians with all the answers and all the explanations. I am suggesting to the Minister of Finance whom I know wants to make sure that Canadians do understand his proposal that he should be speaking to the government House Leader, suggesting that all members of the House should have an opportunity to speak out in this forum and tell exactly what they feel so strongly about in terms of whether or not they support the GST or whether they oppose it.

Today I listened to the story on how the deficit problem in the country has occurred. Although it has doubled the debt, and the deficit is going to be well in excess of \$30 billion this year, the government says it is the fault of the government that was in power 5, 10 or 15 years ago.

If one wanted to look at it closely, one might want to ask what was the amount collected by the Government of Canada through the manufacturers' sales tax in 1984, what is the amount this year and what is the projected amount had the MST been left in force in the fiscal year 1991-92. I think Canadians would be astounded to learn that in 1984 when this government came to power it was collecting less than \$8 billion in the manufacturers' sales tax. Under the goods and services tax it will collect in excess of \$25 billion.

It would be interesting for Canadians and for all members of the House from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario who support the GST to stand in this House and tell us why they support it. Do not tell us why the opposition is spreading gloom and doom and that the opposition wants to take political advantage of the goods and services tax. It seems to me that it is