

*Adjournment Debate***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION**

government intends to abandon the federal government wharves as these harbours come on to their seventh-fifth year.

It is a matter of fact that in the small craft harbours sector there is a private consulting firm preparing a report to abandon small craft harbours. Of course, there have been numerous concerns about upgrading facilities that are a hazard, be it garbage, breakwaters, and what not. I am wondering if the minister might stand up and dispel some of those fears and see if we can indeed not be, I would say, pushed away from the concept of locally governing some of these airports. Maybe the minister could in fact stand up in the House and dispel some of those fears of British Columbians.

• (1840)

[*Translation*]

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

Some hon. members: Question!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion adopted on division and bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

[*English*]

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. There was an understanding that upon the completion of the debate on the previous bill that we would call it seven o'clock.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent for the motion by the Minister of Transport to call it seven o'clock?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, on October 24 I put a question to the Minister of State for Seniors concerning the effects of the goods and services tax on Canadian senior citizens. I now appreciate this opportunity to rise and bring this issue again to the House and truly hope that the response I will receive will be better understood by myself and the seniors of this nation.

The basis of my question was that the GST will place an added burden on Canadian seniors. The government may give some song and dance on the issue of credits and say that tax credits will control the impact on the goods and services tax, but in fact the GST will have a very negative effect on the seniors of this nation.

In a response to my question, the minister talked about social justice and said that essential goods will not be taxed. However, the minister's response fell far from the mark. There are many items that may or may not be taxed. It depends on how they are purchased.

The GST Consumer Information Office states clearly that if a medical device is bought with a doctor's prescription, the GST will not be added. If this device is purchased without a prescription, the tax will be charged. This discrepancy is quite alarming and will lead to confusion among seniors and, of course, Canadian citizens at large.

One example of that I would like to use to explain the problems associated is the able walker that was advertised on TV. This device provides walking and balance assistance to seniors. It acts as a seat if they are waiting for a bus and can be converted into a shopping cart when they arrive at the mall.

Sales of these items are booming, especially for the seniors who need just a little assistance to get around.