

Government Orders

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, if we had not allowed any write off of business and other forms of business development expenses the hon. member would be hearing from the business community.

Mr. Rodriguez: Other countries have limited the tax.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): He would also be hearing from the restaurant association, the hotel association and other organizations like that, which gain a significant amount of their business, including in Sudbury—

Mr. Rodriguez: You have no control over it, so just do it.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): It is important that we make sure that this is not excessive. That is why we cut back—

Mr. Rodriguez: Poor people pay the tax on the basics.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am trying to provide an answer to the hon. member but clearly he is not of a mind to listen.

We cut back from a 100 per cent deduction to an 80 per cent deduction to reflect concerns that I think the hon. member and I would share.

To go further than that, it can do some damage to the tourism industry in this country. I believe that that is something the hon. member has ignored.

Mr. Speaker: I remind hon. members that we are all bound by the special order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Just before you end off the afternoon, I want to say on behalf of the New Democratic Party, and I suspect that others will want to say something too, that as a result of the special order we departed from the traditional way

we handle the kick-off of important legislation. I simply want to say how much we have appreciated the chance to raise questions at the end of the three leading speeches from the three political parties.

We appreciate the Minister of Finance making himself available for this hour to enter into this exchange. I think it has been helpful and useful. I think those viewing would agree.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his comments. We on this side of the House very much appreciate this kind of constructive debate, the opportunity to genuinely explore an issue because we are confident that we can win the debate.

I want to say that I hope this is a signal from the opposition parties that they will sit down and seriously debate the issue rather than engaging in the games which wasted so much time last week.

Mr. Speaker: The Speaker appreciates the complimentary comments back and forth across the chamber.

I should say to the public watching that a great many members have stayed until now to take part in this debate. Not all have been able to be recognized.

I would indicate to House leaders that the Speaker would be prepared to take that into consideration at Question Period tomorrow so that those who did not have a chance to rise might be considered tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

Pursuant to the order made earlier today, the debate on second reading is adjourned. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

The House adjourned at 6.06 p.m.