

sugar-coating of the GST represents exactly the kind of dishonest subterfuge which to us as a party and to us as a country is not acceptable.

I hope that when many Conservatives and many Liberals actually read this legislation they will see it for the piece of flimflam sugar-coating that it is. I hope they will vote against it to express their disgust and the disgust of their constituents with that unfair goods and services tax which was brought into this country by the government that sits in power but does not have a legitimate right to exercise power given its level of support within this country.

Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to compliment the hon. member for Essex—Windsor for his presentation to the House today.

I would like to make a comment, prior to asking a question, about some of the effects on my community of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, much of which is along the border as is the member's constituency of Windsor.

We have seen some difficulties over the course of time from the effects of the goods and services tax along with the monetary and fiscal policies of this government with the high interest rates, the increasingly high dollar rate as opposed to the United States dollar and the difficulties of course of the cross-border shopping as a result of that.

This summer I went to a number of industries such as the forest industry and value-added industries in the forest industry and other industries within my area that were supposed to benefit by manufacturers' sales tax being taken off and the goods and services tax being placed on them.

What I find over that course of time—I am wondering whether the member has seen the same problems in the Windsor area—is that these people are tied down now in higher costs because of the fact that they have higher costs of doing their books. They have to employ more people in the bookkeeping areas, and they are finding that the government is slower and slower in getting rebates back to them.

One of my constituents had been waiting for a rebate for over three months of over \$40,000 from the government. One of the problems is that throughout the course of all of this it appears that the Conservative government

has not been telling the full truth of all of the ramifications of this to the people of Canada.

I think the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has pointed that out in a recent letter to the Prime Minister asking for the Minister of National Revenue's resignation in saying that he certainly has not come clean with a recent report that showed that there was going to be a major effect. I think the study shows that it would be 3.8 per cent cheaper to buy goods in the United States as a result of the goods and services tax.

It appears that it has suppressed this over a period of time in bringing it in, as it has suppressed all of their studies that showed it was going to increase recessionary times in this country. It was going to increase many of the problems as opposed to assisting the people as they have told us it would be.

Can the member tell us some of what he has seen in his own riding of Windsor and the devastation that the goods and services tax has brought about, and whether he has a comment on what appears to be a fact that the government has constantly covered up what the effect of this is on people and how much it is going to use of this in debt and deficit reduction?

It appears that this is a shell game that it is playing with this. It is simply going to take money from one pocket and put it in the other. Would the hon. member comment on that for the people of Canada?

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his question.

Let me say just two or three things. First, I think to call it a shell game is a useful comment.

• (1750)

What we really have here is something which says that all GST money will go into this account and we will use this account for certain expenditures such as paying the interest on the national debt, such as paying rebates to certain income tax concerns such as paying off certain parts of the GST rebates. If we happen to have anything left over after paying all those interest costs and so forth—which will not be the case—but if we had, we would pay that against the deficit.

This is very interesting, but it does not really prevent the government from doing with other accounts other things. If it uses this GST account to pay for interest costs on the national debt, then it can take the money in its general account, which it would have used to pay