

• (1640)

The New Democratic Party is on record as saying what it would do. It would scrap the GST without telling us where and how \$15 billion would be found to replace the revenues being lost. It would just scrap the GST and throw it away.

The New Democratic Party says that it would rip up the free trade agreement, the very free trade agreement that has increased our exports with the United States by 10.5 per cent this year alone, that is responsible for \$16 billion in additional trade with the United States. Exports right now are the strongest segment of our economy and are dragging this recovery right along. The New Democratic Party would just rip it up, build a new wall around Canada, keep out the prosperity and keep out the wealth.

What would the NDP do? The NDP says: "Well, we will just tax the rich". I think my constituents have a sinking feeling that the NDP are referring to them as rich. Maybe hard-working folks, middle class folks who own their own homes and who work hard to try to put their kids through school are the people the NDP call the rich. I think it would target my constituents.

What else would the NDP do? The NDP would probably try to do what Bob Rae has done in Ontario. Bob Rae is the man who leads a government which in four years will add more debt to the province of Ontario than was accumulated in the 125 years that preceded that four-year period. Bob Rae is the same man who would start making us pay to drive on the roads that we have already paid to have paved. Bob Rae is the man who says he is ready to raise new personal income taxes. About the last thing this economy needs is more taxes. More taxes make us less competitive, but that is what Bob Rae would do. Bob Rae is the man who has just introduced labour law reform in the province of Ontario, which would handicap employers during a strike and drive investment away from the province of Ontario, which scares people who now are maybe going to Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania or other places where there is right to work legislation diametrically opposed to the right to strike legislation in Ontario. This is the same Bob Rae who leads a government that is now being roundly criticized in international markets, who leads a govern-

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ment that investment newsletters in the United States are now making sure they warn Americans away from.

For example, a recent edition of Grant's Newsletter, published in the United States to give some tips to American investors, states: "And what is happening to Hydro's credit"—Ontario Hydro—"and what is happening to the credit of the province of Ontario? Briefly given, the answers are decay and decline respectively". There it is, decay and decline. That is what has happened to Ontario, the engine of Canada's economy, driving 40 per cent of our economic activity. The Americans are being told to stay away, decay and decline has taken over Ontario. That is what we can expect out of the NDP.

How about the Liberals? It is really fortunate, Mr. Speaker, that you have just told me that I have only about one minute left because in that minute I could probably run over the Liberal economic policy 60 times because there is no policy. The only thing we have heard in this chamber is: "Well, Mr. Speaker, we think the Government of Canada ought to spend more, spend, spend, spend".

I just discussed my conversation with the Minister of Finance 14 years ago when I was a journalist. In that conversation that is what he said they were going to do. In 1974 he said: "We are going to spend". He sure made good on that one. Here we are today with a \$450 billion deficit, which is a legacy of the government opposite. God help this great country, which is going to get out of this hassle, if they are ever returned to this side because we are in for a lot more pain and no gain. Canadians can see through it and those guys are staying over there.

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague across used to work for the *Sun* chain of newspapers. I wonder if he agrees with today's editorial. Let me read some of it to you, Mr. Speaker:

For those of you who are still wondering what Finance Minister Don Mazankowski actually said last week in his economic statement to the House of Commons, we offer you this partial text.

Our most recent economic progress has been. . .blah, blah, blah—slowed by a stubborn world-wide recession—blah, blah, blah—economic restructuring—blah, blah, blah—trade uncertainties, confidence and to rekindle hope—blah, blah, blah—Canada's experience—blah, blah, blah—lasting jobs—blah, blah, blah.