

In conclusion, in order to hasten the Prime Minister along, I ask that all members of this House support the motion which is before us today.

Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, I heard one of my colleagues across the Chamber today saying: "It takes money to make money. Spend, spend, spend". Over the years, I have heard this many times from the opposition. Certainly, if we look at the record, the growth in program spending for the years 1969-70 to 1984-85 was on average 13.8 per cent. The growth in the last three years of the Liberal government, when we look at 1980-81, was 16.5 per cent. In 1981-82 it was 14.75 per cent and in 1982-83 it was 19.75 per cent.

In the last eight years this government has looked at an increase of on average 3.6 per cent. My question to my colleague across the way is: Is this the policy of the Liberals? Is it the policy to spend, spend, spend, to spend our way out of the recession? Do they have anything else to offer Canadians other than to spend, spend, spend?

Mr. Kilger: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Wild Rose for her question. With regard to spending, the intervention we heard prior to my speaking from her colleague from New Brunswick in relation to infrastructure would give her some insight into the ideals and policies of the Liberal government.

In fact, yes, at this time in our economy and facing the high unemployment we have, we would intervene. We hope that her government will do likewise. If I read correctly and if I am hearing properly, in fact those members are considering and will bring forward an infrastructure program in partnership with the provinces to address the issue of transportation through improvements to highways.

• (1420)

I believe that is very similar to the thoughts and beliefs of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party has been on the record for some time in wanting to have government, in this case this government, get into partnership with the provinces and with municipalities in an infrastructure program. I welcome the initiative that the government is bringing in an infrastructure program in partnership with the provinces to address the national transportation network through highway improvements and so on.

Certainly the Liberal Party is in support of those types of initiatives. My party does not believe in spending and spending. We have to be fiscally responsible regardless of

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who forms the next government. But certainly this is a critical time for government to get involved in the marketplace and initiate an infrastructure program. I hope the government will act on its initiative that I understand is coming forward very shortly.

What else would the Liberal Party have to offer? We would have a great deal of hope to offer to Canadians. They want the chance, as our good neighbours to the south had recently, of going to the polls, electing a new government and giving them new hope.

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, I heard the hon. member make reference to the goods and services tax as being one of the evils this government has created, or at least in any event it is being harnessed with the blame. I sat here intrigued. I too do not like being the bearer of a public, a visible tax to replace a hidden tax.

As we all know in this Chamber the public does not react to the reality that this visible tax has replaced a hidden tax. It just requires a leap of faith. We thought that with the initiation of this tax Canadian taxpayers had the right to know what the government was taking out of their pockets and as a result we decided to go public with it. Perhaps politically it was not a very astute move but from the standpoint of honesty it was really the only way we could go.

I sat intrigued and asked myself if perhaps there was a better way to raise the revenues which everyone in the House will recognize were raised in a negative way in manufacturing through the federal sales tax and replaced by the goods and services tax.

Let us assume a full moon should rise at the same time that a low comes in from the maritimes and clouds everyone's vision and a Liberal government should be elected, what would the Liberal Party do? What would it suggest we do? What would it do to replace the revenue from the GST? Should it eliminate it or in fact would its plan be to eliminate it?

Mr. Kilger: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the hon. member's question. Let me start off by speaking on the GST from a regional perspective, from my own situation in Stormont—Dundas and Cornwall, which is on the north shores of the St. Lawrence river just adjacent to northern New York State. Taxes are never popular for any government, be it municipal, provincial or federal. It will be no different for the next government. If ever there was a tax revolt in Canada particularly in border commu-