

Oral Questions

precisely what I told the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts I would do when he wrote to me to ask this.

As I was about to enter the House yesterday, I was informed that the NDP did not like the idea of a special committee and that it would prefer a standing committee. I heard other remarks from the Liberal opposition that there are too many committees already.

I have asked the House leader on this side of the House to contact his colleagues to inform me of the desire of the opposition. Then, we will make a decision.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the President of the Treasury Board also stated that he now intends, after going through a task force and a white paper, finally to get into meaningful discussion with the unions involved. Is that a commitment, and what are this minister's plans for communication with the union?

• (1500)

Hon. Gilles Loisel (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, they are very serious plans indeed. I would like to invite the unions now to be in touch with us. We have made public our intentions. I have told them that we will be prepared to negotiate and discuss with them.

I would also indicate to the hon. member that early in the new year I will put forward a full consultation process which will include, of course, any member who will want to come and state his or her mind on these very important matters. We are talking here of a major change made for Canadians. We have a fantastic civil service in Canada. We need to modernize it and remove the weight of Ottawa from it's back so that it can go on and serve the citizens.

I am determined to do that and I will welcome the contribution of anyone in this House to do that.

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GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue has demonstrated the meaning of the Conservative dictatorship, "My way or no way". The minister is politically black-

mailing business across Canada in order to sign up for the government's GST. Sign up—

Some hon. members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Just a moment. I know that the hon. member would want to withdraw the word "blackmail". If he indicates that he is doing so, I will let him finish the question.

Mr. Karygiannis: I withdraw, Mr. Speaker. Numerous businesses will suffer across this country. The minister clearly does not understand the meaning of the word democracy.

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Does he not finally realize that this tax is flawed? He should withdraw it, go back to the drawing board and start all over again.

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is referring to my comments in a speech in Toronto earlier this week where I pointed out quite clearly and categorically to the business community, to those in the minority that have not yet prepared or registered for the GST, that if they do not register for the GST they will not be eligible for an input tax credit. They would not be eligible for the federal sales tax rebate on inventory. They would not be able to receive the up to \$1,000 grant for start-up costs for small businesses.

What I am saying and repeating here today is for those businesses that have not yet registered, I think it is good business to do so in anticipation of a January 1 start.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to advise the House that I have several rulings to make. I think it would be of convenience to all members if we went ahead first with the usual Thursday question. The hon. member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have the usual question for the government House leader. Can he indicate to the House what the business will be for tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday and the remainder of next week?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we will continue with the motion to