

take the government members at the word of the minister.

This is all to the good, especially as the minister has resolved upon the course of spending \$7 million of taxpayers' money to tell taxpayers about the wickedness of a tax which no one likes. It is not as if he had to convince people. However, he has resolved on this course, as well.

It is interesting to note that when the Conservatives came to power in 1984, the Government of Canada collected 19 per cent of their revenues from consumption taxes. With successive Conservative budgets, however, we see this total now boosted to 25 per cent of total government revenues. It has gone from 19 per cent to 25 per cent of total government revenues being collected from consumption taxes, and this in a mere five years. Imagine what the Conservatives will be able to accomplish should they be granted—the thought is almost too terrible to contemplate—a third term. However, I have every confidence that the Canadian people in their wisdom will see that that is precluded.

Not a budget has gone by without the kind of change we find effected in Bill C-20, Clause 3. Incredibly, the very hon. member of this House who has deemed the manufacturers' sales tax to be "a silent killer of jobs" is seeking in Bill C-20 to boost that tax by a factor of about 12 per cent. It is incredible.

• (1550)

The Minister of Finance advises this House to take a manufacturers' sales tax at 12 per cent and boost it to 13.5 per cent, an increase of about 12 percent. Again, I say, we are talking, in consequence of that increase, of additional revenues to the government from this hated manufacturers' sales tax of about \$270 million. That is \$270 million worth more of jobs presumably killed by this silent killer of jobs.

So I must confess there seems to be, I will not say hypocrisy—I cannot believe that the Minister of Finance is capable of blatant hypocrisy—but perhaps it would not be too unkind to suggest that there is perhaps confusion at work here, especially as not a single budget has gone past under this current Finance Minister's period in that position without a rise in the manufacturers' sales tax.

### *Adjournment Debate*

Indeed, starting in 1984, when the Conservatives were elected and became the government of this country, the manufacturers' sales tax stood at 9 per cent. In their five short years in power the Conservatives have boosted this silent killer of jobs by 50 per cent. It is incredible. They say one thing, they profess one thing, and yet, oddly, they do another.

What conclusion can we draw from this? Are we perhaps to take the experience of having the Conservatives passionately saying one thing in this instance while doing the direct opposite and apply that to the other guarantees they are offering us with regard to the goods and services tax? Do you think, Mr. Speaker, it would be expedient for us to do that? I do. Because obviously any government capable of year after year after year raising the very tax which the Conservatives now say is a terrible thing that must be dealt away with is a government more than capable of taking an initial goods and services tax and, thereafter, year after year after year boosting it as well so that even if, as per Mr. Blenkarn, we wind up with a GST initially introduced at 4.5 per cent, if the record on the manufacturers' sales tax is anything to go by, it will be 9 per cent within two years. And Lord knows where the escalation finally will stop, if ever.

The advice to this House, contained in Motion No. 4, to delete those sections of clause 3 of the bill which authorize the boosting of the manufacturers' sales tax from 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent are very well advised, and I commend them to the entire House because we, at least on this side, take seriously the assessment of the manufacturers' sales tax as "a silent killer of jobs".

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

### SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Kamloops (Mr. Riis)—The Economy—Conference Board of Canada Report/National Sales Tax/Impact on Business Investment; the Hon. Member for Burin—St. George's (Mr. Simmons)—Fisheries—Impact of Free Trade Agreement