

decisions. There are businesses and industries out there that are very supportive of it.

Yesterday we had an interjection during my presentation from a member from northern Ontario who has a considerable representation of people active in the primary industry, particularly the mining industry. I thought he would go back to his riding and discuss with people in the mining industry exactly what they think. Here is what they said in front of the finance committee.

This is the Mining Association of Canada, and Mr. George Miller, its president, appeared on October 16. I would like to quote what he said:

Our brief mentions that the industry supports the replacement of the present manufacturers' sales tax by the goods and services tax. We have a number of reasons for that which are covered in the brief, but basically they boil down to the fact that we think it is good tax policy. It eliminates a tax which has many faults—The big benefit from the replacement of the present tax is that it will help to make Canadian exporters more competitive and will help us to survive in the bad times—

I would have thought that members who have a lot of mining constituents in their riding would be interested in making sure that jobs were secure. That is what we are doing with the goods and services tax. We are securing jobs for Canadians throughout Canada.

I should point out that I do not have an appliance manufacturer in my riding. I do not have any mines in my riding, nor do I have any agricultural implement manufacturers in my riding. What I am talking about are benefits that are being spread across Canada and that is really what this GST legislation will do. It will help Canada extensively.

We do have some advanced technology groups that will also benefit. I would just like to mention exactly what these people said on October 16 in front of the Standing Committee on Finance hearings. Mr. Roy Woodbridge, president of the association, appeared and made the following statement:

With respect to the goods and services tax, we are philosophically attracted to the concept. It is certainly an improvement over the existing federal sales tax system. It eliminates biases in imports that have harmed Canadian advanced technology industries in the past, particularly in the computer field—I think, Mr. Chairman, if I could I would like to respond to that because we have been tracking this goods and services tax since the early days when tax reform was first tabled as a concept. We have run workshops, seminars, we have had individual company visits, we have had questionnaires out to our

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membership and I can tell you pretty categorically that if you have got a roomful of our members and ask them how many regard—take the good and bad altogether—how many are in favour of this? You would have about 98 per cent of them raising their hands being in favour.

• (1610)

We do not hear that from those in opposition. We do not hear them saying that there are industries throughout Canada that are very positive and supportive of what we are doing. It is industry that creates jobs. That is what we are talking about.

There is another group, the Canadian Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute, and its comment is:

While we are philosophically opposed to increases in taxation, as an institute we recognize that a consumption tax is preferable to the existing federal sales tax.

The list goes on rather extensively of people who have come out publicly in support of this legislation. I find it disturbing that in all of the rhetoric that is used by the opposition, they do not seem to mention that their constituents, the people who employ their constituents, are so tremendously in favour of the goods and services tax.

I have an article that was published in *The Windsor Star* this past week. Windsor is not known for the number of Tory members that it has sitting in the House of Commons today. I thought this would be a rather interesting article. It is dated January 23 and is rather extensive, dealing with a number of issues. I quote from that article the paragraph dealing with the GST:

On the GST, I find it difficult to understand not only Henderson but CWA leaders like Gary Parent and others fighting the removal of the 13.5 per cent federal sales tax. Why should the workers of our manufacturing industry carry the burden of this tax on their shoulders? Why not lower the tax to seven per cent and let those who make a living off the people who work in manufacturing industries share the burden. Windsor is a manufacturing town and lower prices on manufactured goods will benefit everyone in Windsor—yes, even the restaurants.

I do not represent Windsor. My riding is not anywhere near Windsor, but I can tell you that the same attitude prevails in my riding and I would hazard to say that on the recent occasion when I visited the riding of Oshawa, there were many people saying the same thing: why should the manufacturing sector of Oshawa carry the burden for the rest of Canada? There is absolutely no reason why it should.