

(Names of signatories read)

● (1700)

Honourable senators, I have another petition on the same matter signed by 24 residents of Newfoundland. These residents, for the most part, are from communities along the south coast.

(Names of signatories read)

I should like to table that petition, honourable senators, and hope that their prayers will be answered.

**Hon. Eymard G. Corbin:** Honourable senators, I have petitions from various localities in New Brunswick. These petitions are signed by people who oppose the proposed goods and services tax. The first petition contains six names.

(Names of signatories read)

Honourable senators, I have another petition from the great province of New Brunswick, signed by Canadian citizens opposed to the proposed goods and services tax. This petition contains 16 names.

(Names of signatories read)

Honourable senators, I have yet another petition containing 26 names of citizens of New Brunswick who oppose the proposed goods and services tax.

(Names of signatories read)

● (1710)

#### THE HONOURABLE PHILIPPE DEANE GIGANTÈS

##### A QUESTION OF FRAUD—QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE— CLARIFICATION OF SENATE RECORDS

**Hon. Philippe Dean Gigantès:** Honourable senators, on a point of privilege, yesterday the Leader of the Government said in the Senate—and I have the blues—that I particularly objected to the use of the word “fraud” or “fraudulent” in the course of the interviews he gave to the press. He went on to say—and I quote:

I want to make it completely clear that I did not,—

That is, the Leader of the Government did not—

—and do not, impute fraudulent intent to Senator Gigantès or to anyone else taking part in this debate.

The Canadian Press has an interview on tape. In the article they distributed, CP1916ET01 11, 1990, it states:

All speeches in Parliament are transcribed and translated and are available in the official record of *Hansard*. The Tories said, “That is why Gigantès read it, his book, to get the translation done for free so that it could be published in French. Conservative Senate Leader Lowell Murray levelled the accusation saying it constituted fraud.”

I should like to ask the Honourable Leader of the Government in the Senate a question. I accept his apology of yesterday and I ask him to tell me if he is telling the truth, and, if so, whether the Canadian press has a trick tape, or what?

[Senator Lewis.]

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Honourable senators, I had thought that my statement yesterday would have sufficed. I said yesterday that whatever the interviews or the tapes may show, I did not, and I do not, impute to the honourable senator, or anyone else, a fraudulent intent. I think I went on to say that my concern was, and is, with the process and with the expense of that process.

But, in any case, I said for the record yesterday—and I repeat it today in reply to the honourable senator—that I accept completely the statement that he made in this chamber about the books in question and about their publication and translation. I do not know what more I can say.

**Senator Gigantès:** If one reads this freely, it sounds as if the Honourable Leader of the Government, by his statement yesterday, implied at least that he had not used the word “fraud;” but the tape from the Canadian press shows that he did.

**Senator Murray:** I saw the Canadian press report. It does not have the word “fraud” in quotation marks. But certainly I may well have used the word “fraud.” What I said yesterday, and repeat again today, is that, first, I did not impute fraudulent intent to the honourable senator or anyone else; secondly, that I accept completely the explanation that he gave about the books; and, thirdly, I withdraw completely anything there that the Honourable Senator Gigantès, or anyone else, finds personally offensive. I do not think I can do any more than that.

**Senator Gigantès:** Honourable senators, I insist on this, because “fraud” is a fairly heavy word. Senator Murray used it and I want the record to show that he used it. By his statement in the house and his apology, which I accept, he implied that he did not. I want the record to show that.

**Senator Murray:** I implied no such thing. I told the honourable senator that I did not impute fraudulent intent to him or anyone else; that I accepted his explanation on the matter; and that I withdrew, and had no hesitation in withdrawing, any reference that he or anyone else found personally offensive.

#### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

##### PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS ON BILL C-62

**Senator Corbin:** Honourable senators, I will continue with the reading of the petition containing 27 names from citizens for New Brunswick who live in the Hartland, Bristol, Woodstock and Stikney area.

(Names of signatories read)

I would ask a page to lay on the table these precious petitions. I yield the floor to my colleague, Senator Fairbairn.

**Hon. Joyce Fairbairn:** Honourable senators, it gives me great pleasure to introduce some names of petitioners from Southern Alberta who have sent along their petitions in many numbers.