

*Government Orders*

waltz in and say: "No way, Jose, you have to renegotiate".

The Liberal Party of Canada has taken a responsible position as evidenced by the comments of our leader on the floor of the House of Commons as well as across this country.

That was his first point. With regard to the GST, what did NDPers do in Ontario? What have they done in Ontario? Where has the opposition been for Mr. Rae on the GST? Where is the opposition from honourable Roy in Saskatchewan, or Mikey in British Columbia? What have they done on the GST?

Have you seen ads on television? Have you seen ads in the newspapers? Have you heard radio clips? Have you heard them debate in the provincial legislature what they think of the GST?

In fact Mikey in B.C. would not even call the House back to listen to the views of members on the subject matters of the day.

Mr. Speaker, is that not hypocrisy? Perhaps it is not hypocrisy in the mind of the hon. member. That may be the case, but I suggest to him through you, sir, that it is hypocrisy. It is hypocrisy in its best as Canadians will demonstrate clearly when the next election rolls around.

We have said we will eliminate the GST and we will put something in its place. But when the New Democratic Party is asked what it will do in terms of eliminating the GST, the members hide underneath their desks. They run under the pool tables. They jump into the pool. They talk fast. They run away. They will not respond to the question.

But when you are an irresponsible third-party rump which is losing its appeal across this country, no wonder you would do that. And if any respectable individual would not accept what I have just said they should stand in their place and refute me in debate.

If not, they lack the intestinal fortitude and should not be afforded the opportunity to be re-elected to this Chamber of this House under the banner of a New Democratic Party member.

Finally, the North American free trade agreement. As I said earlier in my comments our trade critic, our associate trade critic, our critic for external affairs and our leader have clearly spelled out our position with regard to the North American free trade agreement.

What the problem is for the hon. member to the left is that he does not like that particular opinion but he knows that Canadians believe us and believe us to be responsible as shown most recently by the various polls that have been produced. They are quite nervous about it.

I can understand that because the leader of the NDP, notwithstanding the divisions in her own caucus, notwithstanding the attack from internal labour sources and labour representatives, cannot go down to the United States and meet with the President of the United States as the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada has done, and say "Mr. President, business is business and friendship is friendship".

That is what scares the New Democratic Party members because they know in their heart of hearts and in their minds that we have carved out the appropriate public policy measures for this country to pursue.

We do not have the answer to each and every question that may come up on any given day on any particular topic, but we are not the NDP. I do not want to be the NDP because as I said earlier they practice hypocrisy at its best.

So I am going to stop now and give the hon. member an opportunity to pose a question and I will respond in kind.

**Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting thing that in this House noise seems to replace the truth at times. When the hon. member stands in his place and creates a noise at the decibel level that he did he certainly missed several points.

I for one would be extremely pleased to hear the Leader of the Official Opposition stand in his place and say that if his party is elected he will end this Canada-U.S. trade agreement. It will end. He has not said that. If it is irresponsible, as one of the Liberal members says, to end an agreement that is so destructive in Canada, then I think Canadians have a choice. I think the polls will actually change as long as the Liberal members say: "I believe it is irresponsible to cancel that agreement".

• (1650)

What I am proposing is a choice: stick to your position. Clarify your position. We are not overly concerned about the Conservative Party of Canada because it sticks to its position, as insane as it is. At 11 per cent in the polls the Conservatives are not a problem at this point in time.