

**Senator Grafstein:** Promise. The French and English were the same. The word promise is easily translated. The question that I would like to have clarified is this: Was a promise made by the Prime Minister to senators opposite—Senator Chaput-Rolland, Senator Castonguay or any Conservative senator—that the GST would be amended? I believe that is an important question, and I would like to have it answered.

● (1600)

**Senator Frith:** Amended, corrected and transformed.

**Senator Grafstein:** The words are “amended” or “transformed”. The French translation may be different.

**Senator Hébert:** The French is the original.

**Senator Grafstein:** I do not quarrel with that. I am suggesting there might be a change in translation.

The question for the government is this: Were promises made by the Prime Minister to senators opposite that the GST would be amended?

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I can add nothing to what Senator Murray has stated earlier. There was a reference made to comments that the Prime Minister made to students in British Columbia. He has quoted that and that newspaper article is available. Presumably Senator Chaput-Rolland was referring to it, but I do not know anything beyond that. Certainly the Prime Minister made no promise directly to me or to anyone that I know of in terms of the question that the honourable senator asks.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, why is Senator Murray not here? We received unanimous consent to change the order of business, to put Question Period ahead, and he is not here. What has happened?

**Senator Doody:** Senator Murray asked us to change the order because he had a cabinet meeting a 4.00 o'clock. You were standing here, Senator Frith, at the time.

**Senator Frith:** Yes, he told me he had a meeting and that he wanted the order changed.

**Senator Grafstein:** I take it Senator Doody is now telling us, contrary to what we have heard from Senator Chaput-Rolland, that the Prime Minister has not made any promises to the Conservative caucus or whatever, aside from the promise made to the student in B.C.? We are not talking about the promise to the B.C. student; we are talking about promises made to Conservative senators. I take it Senator Doody is saying that no promises were made by the Prime Minister to amend the GST?

**Senator Doody:** It is the same answer as the last answer, honourable senators. Senator Grafstein can look at *Hansard* if he wants to, but I find it tedious to say the same thing over and over again.

[Senator Barootes.]

## HONOURABLE JACQUES FLYNN, P.C.

PRESENCE ON PARLIAMENT HILL—CAPACITY AND PAYMENT

**Hon. Eymard G. Corbin:** Honourable senators, many weeks ago we gave a former colleague of ours, the Honourable Jacques Flynn, a great send-off.

**Senator Frith:** He is back.

**Senator Corbin:** Many speeches were made outlining his great contribution to Canadian parliamentary life. That was followed by a reception in the Speaker's Chamber, which was the last time I ate the Speaker's chips and pretzels, by the way. I do not intend to set foot in there for some time.

Senator Flynn is now, as I understand it, in the employ of Senator Murray, the Tory caucus, the government or the Privy Council—I do not know which one. He is presently working on the Senate side of the Hill, as I understand it. If I knew exactly his status, I would not be asking these questions.

I would like to know if he is in fact employed, by whom, who is paying his salary, and what the salary or the retainer is.

**Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government):** I have no knowledge of any salary or hiring of Senator Flynn by anyone. I do know that he has been here giving us advice, which we welcome very much. As a matter of fact, I regret that he retired so soon.

As for his terms of employment, if any, I have no knowledge of them.

**Senator Corbin:** That is certainly a mysterious answer. Are you suggesting that he is providing his services—his time away from his beloved Quebec City and his wife—free of charge to anyone? That seems to be your suggestion, but I would warn you about Senator Flynn's advice. When he was in this house and gave the Conservatives advice, you got yourselves in trouble.

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

COST OF PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Raymond J. Perrault:** Honourable senators, members of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce have had a busy summer with the GST hearings. The hearings were opposed by a number of Conservative members of that committee. This process of consulting public opinion was described as being very wasteful.

Information has just been tabled in the other place that the Department of Finance has spent \$413,700 in the past year on six public opinion surveys that told us that most Canadians hate the proposed goods and services tax and do not trust the government to spend GST revenue wisely.

The members of the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce were attacked regularly by certain members, such as Senator Simard, for wasting money. He blasted this expenditure involved in hearing the views of Canadians from coast to coast regarding the GST. We now find out that the government spent almost the same amount of money on six public opinion surveys. I should like to ask the