

Government Orders

At the same time that this government wants to tax those mothers who go out and buy their children's snowboots, General Motors does not have to pay any tax. It says: "Oh, shucks, why force these folks to pay taxes at all? General Motors, the Royal Bank of Canada, Nova Corporation, or Cadillac-Fairview, why ask these big corporations to pay any tax at all? The Conservatives say they would rather tax the mother going out to buy clothing for her children for the winter. fill Now, if that is not a cruel, mean, dastardly tax, I do not know what is. It is actually hard to believe.

• (1630)

I cannot imagine how Conservatives can be sitting here today asking us to vote on legislation to increase the manufacturers' sales tax when for the last few weeks all we have been hearing across Canada is that we have to do away with this tax. We have to get rid of it because it is a killer of jobs. Here we are today responding to the Minister of Finance and he says, not only should we keep the manufacturers' tax, but we should increase it to 13.5 per cent.

One can go on to talk about hypocrisy and about the big lie. The chairman of the finance committee at every single meeting when people ask why we have to have a sales tax says this killer of jobs tax, the manufacturers' tax is bad, and is harmful to the economy. Does he know what the Minister of Finance is doing today? He is actually increasing this horrible tax. These two fellows should get together and chit-chat about this so that at least the same lie is going out. We cannot have one person saying one thing and the other person another which, of course, is now becoming unfortunately an all too familiar theme from the government.

I can simply summarize by saying that we are opposed to this increase in taxation. We do not think that increasing the sales tax makes any sense. We do not think that having it makes any sense at all and for that reason, I would encourage my friends opposite in the Conservative party, if they really believe that this manufacturers' sales tax is as bad as it is, for goodness' sake to vote in favour of this amendment to at least not increase this sales tax and to support their hon. colleague's amendment to do away with it totally.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, in my time in this Chamber and also in the

Newfoundland House of Assembly, I have heard some entertaining speeches but none more so than the one I heard just a few minutes ago from the Whip for the government, the gentleman from Calgary West. It had a familiar ring. I wondered where I had heard the same general theme before.

I found myself thinking about the exclamations of Little Red Riding Hood when she saw the wolf in her grandmother's bed: "What great big ears you have, what a big nose you have, what big teeth you have," and so on. I saw the hon. member for Calgary West trying to be one thing but looking in reality like something quite different.

If you reflect on what he said, Mr. Speaker, the essence of what he said is, "Do not be fooled by the big ears, do not be fooled by the 13.5 per cent. Putting the tax from 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent and over the life of this government, putting the tax from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent is really the way we over here reduce taxes. It is the way we make things easier on you. You are not really seeing big ears or big teeth at all. You are really seeing a very friendly, paternal act here. We are trying to help Canadians with our tax reform."

I realized in the same moment, when I got past thinking about Little Red Riding Hood, that the gentleman from Calgary West had not often spoken in this Chamber and I realized why, of course, when I looked at the mover of the amendment. The gentleman from Calgary West is so busy these days whipping the gentleman from Calgary Northeast that he has not had much time to make speeches about tax increases or decreases, whichever you choose to characterize them as. I realized also, of course, why he has found it necessary to try to whip the gentleman from Calgary Northeast.

If I may say so, to the gentleman from Calgary Northeast, for all his having been whipped, does not look to be in too bad shape today. I think he is still fairly creative with his amendments and I commend him for speaking out on this very important issue.

I once advanced the perhaps novel suggestion that we ought, in the political party system in this country, to adopt a page out of the books of the National Hockey League, in which there is a business of trading people from time to time. As I looked around the chamber, I could see that various parties might benefit from such an