

*Points of Order***POINT OF ORDER**

• (1510)

Mr. Speaker: I want to say to the hon. member that I have a secretary that takes dictation very well. I make the facilities of the Speaker's office available to hon. colleagues.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, on the same point, I think that since the Secretary of State for External Affairs has requested unanimous consent to table the remarks that he would have made in the House had his party not short-circuited his opportunity to make the speech, I think it is only fitting, if there is an agreement, that the two opposition parties are also able to table their responses. With that understanding, I give my consent.

Mr. Speaker: I take it also that consent is given that they will be appropriately printed in *Hansard*?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: See Appendix.*]

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, this being Thursday, I want to ask the representative of the government House Leader to give the customary statement of government business.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow being Friday, we intend to call Bill C-5, which will be followed by Bill C-34. Then, if we have further time, we would call again the bills that are on the Order Paper for today. I should also say that on Monday, January 29, we expect to proceed on Bill C-62 and we expect, further, to call that on other days in the same week.

WAYS AND MEANS MOTION

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Chair for its indulgence in allowing me to spend some time considering the issue that was raised by the hon. member for Kamloops yesterday in relation to the tabling of Bill C-62 and the Ways and Means motion preceding that.

I should start by noting that the August technical paper was not tabled in the House. I said I wanted to check on that when I stood yesterday, Mr. Speaker. However, I did table the draft GST legislation on October 13, 1989, which, as I stated at the time, and I quote, "fully reflects in draft bill form what the August technical paper would look like if it were put into bill form". That is a clear reference to the technical paper.

I would like to go back a little bit further, however, because I think it is important to look at the process that sales tax reform has gone through to reach the point where yesterday the GST bill was introduced.

Sales tax reform was first mentioned when I tabled the agenda for economic renewal in November of 1984. In June of 1987 the white paper, which included extensive comments on sales tax reform, was issued. In November of 1987 and March of 1988 the finance committee tabled its studies of sales tax reform. In April of 1989 the goods and services tax reform paper was issued with the budget. In August of 1989 I issued the goods and services tax technical paper. In October of 1989, as I indicated earlier, we tabled the draft GST legislation. In November of 1989 the finance committee tabled its report on the technical paper on the goods and services tax.

Clearly, there would have been no committee hearings or committee report without the study of the technical paper. The sole purpose of the hearings undertaken by the finance committee was to study the technical paper and the proposals that were in that paper.