

Time Allocation

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Is the FTQ scaring people in Quebec? Is Louis Laberge trying to scare people in Quebec? Yes or no?

Mr. Côté: I must say, Mr. Speaker, and I heard some reactions just now. I believe that to a certain extent, they scared people. Yes, they did. Remember what they did during the debate on free trade. They scared them then, to a certain extent. They did. However, all the more reason to finish with these endless arguments which are causing considerable concern among Canadians.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): We haven't finished yet! Remember the deindexed pensions?

Mr. Côté: Many people do not realize that thanks to the tax credit they will receive, their incomes will go up, although my hon. opposition colleague from the finance committee does not agree.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): It isn't indexed.

Mr. Côté: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether my colleagues across the way, who are interrupting me, are proud of what they did? Are they really proud of the scare tactics they used on the most vulnerable people in this country? If they claim to represent Canadians, including the most vulnerable in our society, how can their conscience and sense of honesty let them do and say what they are doing and saying now?

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Eighty per cent of Quebecers are against the GST.

Mr. Côté: The answer is clear. They are not responsible people and they do not represent these vulnerable groups because otherwise, Mr. Speaker, they would have suggested alternatives. They would have added constructive amendments. But it was no, always no, until the very end, including the filibuster.

Mr. Boudria: My colleague proposed 60 amendments.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The Tories are down to 17 per cent in the polls! Twenty per cent of people are for the GST.

Mr. Boudria: You are even less popular than the GST!

Mr. McDermid: Wait until the election!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): When you start flogging your promises again?

Mr. Côté: So it is not surprising, Mr. Speaker, that when they are exposed to this kind of cynicism and tunnel vision on the part of opposition members, Canadians have trouble trusting politicians. Unfortunately, this reflects badly, not just on the opposition but on all parties generally. How can groups that are particularly vulnerable, and how can Canadians in general be expected to trust politicians?

An Hon. Member: Fewer than 20 per cent are in favour of the GST.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): You are down to 17 per cent in the polls.

Mr. Côté: Mr. Speaker, just listen to the opposition's violent response to whatever we have to say, and we have a right to say it, Mr. Speaker.

In two or three years, when election time comes around again—and I would advise you, my opposition friends, to listen to what I have to say.

An Hon. Member: Good for you, Yvon!

Mr. Côté: When election time comes around again, in two or three years, I am convinced that once again, the vast majority of Canadians will put their trust in a government that has acted responsibly, that had the courage to do what is necessary, what others before us failed to do, thus leaving us with this deficit and this national debt.

• (1230)

Mr. Speaker, as long as politicians base their decisions on partisan and purely political considerations, we will have governments that are not responsible, that are powerless, and we should not be surprised at the kind of legacy such governments leave to the electorate they claim to represent and whose well-being they claim to defend. I repeat, in two or three years, we—when I say we, I mean Canadians, except for the opposition—will appreciate the competence and courage of this government.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being 12.31 o'clock p.m., the two hours provided for the consideration of the motion now before the House under the provisions of Standing Order 78(3) have expired.