

Supply

The same goes for inflation. This government is so possessed by inflation that it forgets that the people who should be congratulated for inflation are not the government, but the 1.5 million and 2 million and many more who are bearing the brunt of the aggressive inflation policy of the government.

I think it is overly fixed on inflation. I think it could let up a little bit.

My question to the member is—and I have tried to be constructive in my tone and specific on one particular area—does he not feel that it is the responsibility of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to point out to the government when it sort of makes errors in its economic policy?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his question. I must say that the hon. member is always present and available to ask or answer questions during a debate. I appreciate his question.

The hon. member will allow me to make a brief comment on the Small Businesses Loans Act. In his budget, the minister said that the act would be amended. However, I have to agree with him that the tabling and the passing of this legislation is taking a very long time. I would hope that the minister responsible will speed up the process as much as possible.

When the hon. member says that a lot of small businesses are not aware of these amendments, I can tell him that I mentioned these changes in my parliamentary bulletin and I received many calls in my office from people inquiring about when this legislation would be passed, how to apply, et cetera. I think that it is the duty of all members, regardless of their party, to keep the people informed of the government's actions. I saw quite a few householders put out by my Conservative colleagues in which they mentioned this particular legislation. But I saw an equally good number of them, not necessarily from members of his own party, but from the opposition, which did not mention these amendments.

• (1550)

There is no doubt in my mind that members, even if they belong to the opposition, must keep their constituents informed of what the government is doing through their householders. They may not agree with what it is

doing but I think that, in any case, it is their duty to mention it. Sometimes I think that some of them are remiss in that department.

This creates a problem since there are 130 ridings in Canada which are not represented by government members. Therefore, if in these 130 ridings, constituents do not receive through their householders information regarding what is going on here for all intents and purposes, they are not informed. The government cannot step in a riding and tell people that it is going to inform them and then proceed with giving them a householder different from the one they received from their member. I do not think that this would be appropriate either. We do seem to have a communication problem at this level.

He said that as far as the GST was concerned, it was bad timing and that it was poorly designed. I agree with him on the time chosen to introduce the GST. It is never the right time to introduce a new tax, no matter the date, the day, the hour or the year. Mr. Speaker, neither you nor I like taxes, neither does my colleague or anybody else for that matter. There cannot be a good time to introduce a new tax, I must agree with him.

When he claims that it was poorly designed, I think that it is normal for glitches to happen at the beginning; when you alter a system which is 65 years old, you expect that it will take one year before everything is in place. I think that it is normal in such a context. One has to be realistic.

Mr. Speaker, you are signalling that my time is up, I will therefore conclude with a comment on my colleague's remarks regarding inflation. In my mind it is of paramount importance for a government to deal with the inflation issue since, if it fails to do so, it will have a whole bunch of economic repercussions.

[*English*]

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to speak today on this motion which really talks about the economic direction of this government.

I must say that I agree with the motion that this House condemn the government's continued adherence to its failed economic policy.