

Government Orders

any words that are spoken in this Chamber, particularly for the government's benefit, when they are spoken against the goods and services tax.

The New Democratic Party has stated quite clearly that we as a party are opposed to this tax. We understand that Canadians are opposed to this tax. The polls are very clear on this point. Canadians are also opposed to the damage that this tax is going to do to our economy in the long term, which is something that this government has failed to address.

We in the New Democratic Party have informed the members of this House and Canadians from coast to coast that we are not going to co-operate with this government in any way to help it, using its majority in this House, to implement this horrible and regressive tax without concern or regard for the well-being of our country.

My question to the hon. member who just spoke is essentially to do with that matter of co-operating with the government to ensure that this goods and services tax somehow gets implemented. Canadians are frustrated. They want members of Parliament to be able to stop this tax. They do not trust this government any longer, and they want this tax stopped at all costs.

• (1640)

Could the hon. member tell me why is it that the Liberal Party objects to what might be the only way to stall the implementation of this tax until the Tories across the way start listening to Canadians? Why is it that the hon. member does not join in this fight to stop this tax instead of helping the government get its way and get this tax implemented sooner than Canadians would want, if at all?

Mrs. Marleau: It is very obvious that the hon. member to my left has been reading the polls and it does my heart good. They have been reading the polls where they have dropped 5 per cent. We are way up there and they realize that we are the enemy. I really thank him for giving us all of the credit. I love it. Keep up the good work.

As far as we are concerned, we are opposed to this tax, but we are very prepared to have good, constructive debate. We want to tell the people of Canada just how bad this tax is. We do not want to play little games so that

we do not get a chance to make our speeches and inform Canadians of what we really feel.

All members to my left want to do is delay and delay, and we know what will happen. After a certain number of hours the government will call the vote and bring in closure, and we will not have had a chance to give the Conservatives a run for their money. It is important that the people of Canada have us stand up for them and put forward very reasonable, rational arguments for the government not going forward with this goods and service tax.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague and friend from Sudbury, not only for laying out so well and so articulately our position against the goods and services tax, a speech by the way that she should mail to every Canadian who did not have the good fortune to be watching when she was speaking today—

Mr. Rodriguez: Save the taxpayers' money.

Mr. Simmons: And still NDPers mumble. They are frustrated, Mr. Speaker, and I come to my second point.

Mr. Epp: What was the first one?

Mr. Simmons: My first one, and I challenge anybody over on my left to disagree, is that the member for Sudbury has just put very forthrightly the case against the goods and services tax. Her speech was much better than any tantrums, any bell ringing or any stomping out of here can ever achieve.

Mr. Epp: We will keep you to those words.

Mr. Simmons: Second, I say to the gentleman from Provencher who was party to that despicable 15-day bell ringing some years ago that he too could take a lesson from what the member for Sudbury said in her response to the gentleman in the NDP.

We in this party intend to oppose vociferously at every turn this goods and services tax. I am with her 100 per cent on the tactic that she advocates and we are following. We are going to do it by standing here in this Chamber, until that crowd over there cuts us off, telling the story of why we are against the goods and services tax.

If his question to her and to us is: "are we going to throw childish tantrums" the answer is no. I rise to compliment my friend for saying that and saying it so