

*Oral Questions*

tee, to carry out these improper actions? Inasmuch as the Prime Minister in the House this morning said that he did not intend to bulldoze Canadians on the Constitution, is it not time he and the government stopped trying to bulldoze Canadians when it comes to the GST?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I ever observed such a disgusting spectacle as the attack the Liberal Senators have made upon the Speaker of the Senate. It is unprecedented, absolutely unprecedented.

I am sorry to note that the Leader of the Opposition associated himself with that, because the Speaker of a House has the authority and responsibility to maintain law and order in a Chamber. It is about time that he has put his foot down. I think he should be applauded and will be applauded by all Canadians.

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course I am not sure where the next question is going to. I listened very carefully to the Leader of the Opposition. I listened also to his argument in the preamble that, because it was tied to the appointment by the Prime Minister, the question was appropriate.

I have serious doubts as to whether or not questions ought to be asked in this place that go directly to the heart of proceedings in the other place. I think for the moment that has to be my ruling.

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I will abide by the ruling because the Deputy Prime Minister has in effect admitted that the Speaker of the Senate is acting under the instructions of the government and the Prime Minister.

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### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a document from the Department of Finance in which the government admits that the GST is flawed and that it intends to change it in a number of ways.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister: If the government is admitting that the GST is flawed, why, instead of trying

to bulldoze it through, doesn't the government withdraw the GST, axe the tax, and give all Canadians a break?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has misinterpreted the response to the earlier question that he posed.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

• (1420)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** What I am saying and what is clearly obvious was that the Speaker's ruling in the other place was upheld by a majority of the members. That is consistent with the traditions of the House over there.

It is rather strange that when a challenge was made about a Speaker's ruling and the Liberals would challenge a Speaker's ruling and defeat it, all was well because majority ruled.

What is at issue here is that the majority has changed. It now is a Conservative majority, and that is what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is failing to accept.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister speaks of a majority of senators, but Canadians will not forget that this majority was created when the Prime Minister packed the Senate with a bunch of GST-loving Tories who are ignoring the views of a majority of Canadians who say they do not want the GST.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the amendments suggested in the document of the Department of Finance confirm that the GST includes a number of errors, particularly as it applies to tourists and cab fares. So I ask the minister, since the government finally admits that the GST contains errors, at least in these areas, why does it not mention books as well? Why does it still insist on taxing books? Again, why is the government so intent on taxing books? Why?

[*English*]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the first part of the question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition wherein he takes issue with the actions of the Prime Minister in