

x per cent on all incomes in Canada for environmental reasons, because of existing public awareness.

That is what governments will try to do. That is what governments have always tried to do. Remember what I said earlier about farmers. Every country has developed its tax system in terms of historical, religious, financial or other constraints.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need polls to tell us that a tax is not popular. When I walk around—

Mr. Nystrom: In Chambly, too!

Mr. Hudon: In Chambly, you've got to be kidding it is not the GST which will get us elected or not. Don't worry! You can talk about Meech Lake in Chambly and show how much of a hypocrite you are but the considerations. They are totally different.

Mr. Speaker, they tell us that a tax is unpopular—When I walk down Victoria Street in Valleyfield, I know that the tax is not popular. But popular or not, Mr. Speaker, it is not going to make me change my mind. I am not here just to get re-elected. I am here to try to make some useful changes, to build a nation for our children and to give them the tools they need to succeed. Because the way we are going— And we all agree on this; there is no need for a Gallup poll.

Mr. Speaker, the way we are going, it will be an a tragedy if we do not give ourselves the economic tools we need to face the new Canadian realities and responsibilities.

[English]

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with great interest to the hon. member for Beauharnois—Salaberry. I just did not quite understand his explanation as to why there is such a devastating percentage of Canadian people opposed to the GST.

I quote from the *Star* CTV poll just released last night which says that 79 per cent of Canadians are opposed to the GST and 16 per cent are in favour of it. That is not very many. Only 16 per cent are in favour of it. I think it is really the 16 Tories in the House tonight. These people are trying to muzzle Parliament by not allowing an extended debate so opposition members can explain to the government what is wrong with it and perhaps we can get some answers to these questions. Clearly, 79 per cent of Canadians are opposed to it. Only 16 per cent are in

favour of it and 5 per cent cannot make up their minds. I think they just probably have not heard of it.

• (1850)

In the member's province of Quebec the situation is even more devastating: 81 per cent are opposed to it while 14 per cent are in favour of it. I would think that it is not just what the hon. member hears casually when he goes back on the weekend, but people are really concerned. He simply has to get better answers and better explanations of why he wants to impose this dastardly tax on the people of Quebec.

Clearly in the west it is the same problem. Only 1 per cent more are in favour; 15 per cent are in favour there and 80 per cent are opposed. Some 5 per cent have not heard of it. In Atlantic Canada 16 per cent are in favour and 78 per cent are opposed.

I think it is important to note when we look at these polls that many people are not only opposed to it but are prepared to sign petitions, write letters to their MPs, attend rallies, vote against it, and boycott the tax. They want to take whatever action is possible.

I wonder if the hon. member could explain to the House why 81 per cent of the people in Quebec are opposed to it and only 14 per cent are in favour.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before the hon. member replies, the hon. member for Leeds—Grenville has a point of order.

Mr. Jordan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government House leader what business he intends to introduce in the House tomorrow.

Mr. Hawkes: The hon. government House leader is not here, Mr. Speaker, but as chief government Whip I think members can look at the Order Paper for tomorrow. I think the primary item on that would be a continuation of the goods and services tax debate.

[Translation]

Mr. Hudon: My colleague wants to know why so many people are against the GST. It is because of the damn lies you keep telling them!

Mr. Nystrom: The what?

Mr. Hudon: The lies! Throughout the free trade debate some Members kept asking why so many people were against free trade. You had elderly people believe they would lose their pension benefits. During the 1988