

Adjournment Debate

where we do not have the Western Grain Stabilization Board and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the programs that we are working on are co-operative programs worked out by the federal government, provincial governments and the producers of those commodities. Many of those commodities are having a desperate time surviving today.

That is the only way that we can provide the long term solutions that are required. We cannot come in with *ad hoc* programs. We have tried that. We know that the 1980s have been very different from other years because of the situation changing throughout the world with the United States and European Community paying massive export subsidies that have damaged our markets. It lowered the world grain price and it has made it very difficult for us to compete against the treasuries of those other countries, as well as for our farmers competing against other farmers who are producing food for the world.

The first program that we hope to have in place is the grains and oilseeds safety nets. We have a committee of farmers and various officials working on a program. We know the ministers of agriculture are meeting later this month. We know it is going to take the co-operation of the provincial governments, along with the federal government, and the producers to come up with the long term solution to what we have today. Governments do not have the answer to all of these things, but by working together we know that will happen. We believe that will give us a long term viability and the security that is necessary.

I want to say again that the practices of the United States and the European Community have hurt our farmers tremendously because of the drastic fall in international grain prices. The only way we can combat this is to work through GATT for a reduction of those world subsidies where we can compete fairly.

Our farmers are the best in the world. They have a quality product and it will compete for quality, but you just cannot compete with the treasuries of these countries.

We believe that by working through GATT, along with the safety net and various other programs that we hope to have in place for the 1991 crop, will be the answer to a lot of our problems.

MONETARY POLICY

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in connection with a question I asked the Minister of National Revenue on September 26 of this year concerning the proposed goods and services tax. In fact, it had to do with asking the minister whether he had instructed businesses to begin advance collection of the GST.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to expand on the question and perhaps hear the parliamentary secretary's response.

First, may I say that in answer to my question, the hon. minister began with what he thought was a put-down, when he said and I quote:

If the hon. member would welcome the invitation that I gave him for a briefing, I would be very happy to let him know the rules of C-62.

I would like to begin by saying that virtually at the moment that I was appointed the official opposition critic for revenue by our leader, I contacted the department and asked for an opportunity to have a briefing.

The members of the department took some time in order to get themselves together so that they could all be present at the briefing they intended to give me. I was ready, willing and able to attend at any time. It was due to the inability of the departments to get all the department heads together quickly that we were unable to have a briefing at the time that I put this question forward.

I want to make it quite clear that I at all times was very happy to accept the invitation of the minister, and that he knew, or should have known, that the delay in the briefing was due to the fact that his departmental officials could not get together. May I say in passing that the briefing was excellent and that I thanked his officials for the briefing.

• (1910)

To the specific question, what prompted the question was a call from a constituent, Charles Angus, who lives on Clapperton Avenue in my riding. He had received an invoice from the T. Eaton Co. The invoice is dated July 31 of this year. Enclosed in it is the following statement and I quote: "Dear Customer: The federal government has defined extended warranty policies as a taxable GST service". Here is the important part: "As of September 1, 1990, regulations require that we collect this 7 per cent tax on that portion of your policy that is in effect in