

rassing to all Canadians"; "forget the shameful antics, we need the GST"; "surgery needed to save democracy and the GST"; "the games senators play"; "opinion polls no reason for Senate to stall the GST"; "anarchy in the Senate"; "the Liberals should be ashamed of themselves".

I have many, many more of these, but the answer is very clear: It is fundamentally important for the future of parliamentary democracy in this country that we proceed with this legislation that is being blocked in the Senate by the Liberal minority there. It is an important fiscal problem. Those bills are key to the ability of this government to manage the fiscal position of the Government of Canada.

I have not heard members opposite in the House of Commons who sit on the Liberal side saying why they feel in this day and age that we should have an unelected, appointed, unaccountable group of people who are appointed by a previous government. How can they justify that group of people blocking the will of the people as expressed on November 21, 1988 and as expressed in the platform of the Government of Canada?

The Liberals said they would block this if elected, but they were not elected. If we are going to establish a precedent of having a minority of senators blocking this legislation, I ask my colleagues opposite: Where does that leave us as a country? What recourse do the Canadian people have if they want to have a large corporations tax, if they want to have \$500 million more in training programs, if they want to have maternity benefits, and if they want to see senior citizens who are earning more than \$50,000 contribute toward lowering the deficit by putting back some or all of their Old Age Security? What recourse do Canadians have? They cannot vote out Allan MacEachen. They cannot vote out Michael Kirby. They cannot vote out Sid Buchwald. They have to wait for those gentlemen to reach age 75. That is not the right way.

People have said to me from other countries when I tell them what is going on here: "This is a joke. It is an anachronism. It is 19th century stuff. I thought we got rid of all this. What is going on? What is the GST?" When I explain it to them they say: "That is the same as our

### *Supply*

value added tax. Why are these unelected Liberal senators saying you should not have a tax we have had it for 20 or 25 years?"

This is the challenge that is facing Canadians and this House today. Are we going to pass this legislation which will help us get the fiscal position of the Government of Canada in a stabilized and normalized position? Are Liberal party members opposite going to continue to be held hostage by their colleagues in the Senate who are not elected?

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** We are now at the period for questions and comments. I would indicate to the Minister of Finance that the gesture I made five minutes ago was not meant to shorten his time, but simply to draw the attention of the clerks at the table.

[*English*]

**Mr. Douglas Young (Acadie—Bathurst):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, on the question of the goods and services tax that allegedly the government party put forward in the last election, as I recall that proposal, even the minister's own technical documents in August of last year indicated that it would be visible, harmonized, fair, and revenue neutral.

I do not think one Canadian voted for the goods and services tax proposal that the minister has brought forward. We will let Canadians debate that, and I am sure they will whenever they have an opportunity.

I have a simple question for the Minister of Finance. The minister asked about alternatives. I indicated in a reply that I thought that what had been proposed by the Standing Committee on Finance in its report last year was a valid contribution to try to turn things around in this country and avoid the recession we are now in.

I want to ask the Minister of Finance if in his widespread consultation he has done the following or, if he has not done so, if he would consider doing it now? Would the minister take the time, along with his officials, to contact the exporters, the manufacturers in Canada, and ask them this question: "Would you rather have the goods and services tax passed or would you rather have a 75-cent to 80-cent Canadian dollar and interest rates at