

*Government Orders*

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the hon. member. I want to speak just briefly on what the hon. member said about tourism.

First, the hon. member said the tax is going to hurt foreign tourism. For any country that has a value-added tax, its tourism has not gone down. It has not affected tourism. The hon. member speaks of tourists going to cash in the tax credits. When I travel and have the opportunity I certainly cash in the tax credits. Most of the people I talk to who travel internationally, who go to countries that have refunds for foreign tourists, take advantage of it. I believe the foreign tourists here will.

• (1740)

We have gone one step further in Canada. We are also giving them a credit on short-term accommodation when they are here, which you do not get in other countries. You do not think they are going to claim that back? Of course they are going to claim it back.

The GST is not going to be a detriment to tourism. The only way it could be a detriment is with all of these opposition members standing up and saying: "Don't come to Canada, it is terrible up here". Well, that is absolute nonsense. You should be promoting this country. You should not be denigrating it with this nonsense about how this tax is going to hurt tourism, because you know it is not true.

**Mrs. Gaffney:** I think the comments of the member across the way were a statement. I do not know whether he knows how to ask a question, but anyway, I will respond to that.

When you have statistics from every one of the major tourism industries across the country, who can you rely on more than the tourism industry themselves, who say that the GST will hurt tourism in Canada.

I have to take the advice of the experts. Unlike the member across the way, I do not consider myself an expert on everything. I listen to the experts and it is high time he did too.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's comments about the grief and suffering tax. I just want to bring a little politics into the Chamber, if I might. I know we should not do that.

I would like to ask the member a question. When she is out, perhaps in the fall of 1992 or the spring of 1993, possibly knocking on doors trying to get the support of her constituents again, when they ask her how come the Liberal Party really did not help fight the GST and did not present any alternatives when that legislation was going through the House of Commons, what she will say to those voters?

**Mrs. Gaffney:** I will say the same thing to these constituents with regard to the GST, as I said to them about the NDP and why did they not fight the free trade agreement.

We have this government across the floor because of the New Democratic Party did not fight the free trade agreement. I will do the same thing for this. Canadians across this country have given alternatives to this government. They have not listened one iota. I have alternatives. Why should I give them to you? You will not listen anyway. The NDP have come up with alternatives. I have not even heard the government consider them. Why go through the sham of presenting something to a government that is going to sit there and ignore what is being said, because they are not listening to Canadians, so why should they listen to me.

**Mr. Jordan:** I would like to congratulate my colleague on a fine speech. She seems to have touched a few nerve ends and that is always an indication of a well supported speech and good statistics.

Canadians had a bad experience a few years ago when we converted to the metric system when rather ruthless entrepreneurs did a very limited kind of tinkering with the price of a unit when the size of the unit was markedly reduced or raised.

**Mr. McDermid:** Who brought that in?

**Mr. Jordan:** I am not speaking about the merits of the metric system. I am talking about ruthless entrepreneurs who existed then and I am sure exist today. I wonder if the member would care to comment on whether she sees any danger of a repeat here?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** You have 30 seconds, please.

**Mrs. Gaffney:** Well, it was with a great deal of interest that I heard the government whip comment on who came from a business background here in this House. He indicated with great delight how most people on the government side of the House had a big business