

... that he would change it, but out of loyalty to the Prime Minister of Canada, I would vote in favour of this tax, as a general rule . . .

And so forth, and so forth.

I imagine you guessed what I wanted to ask, honourable senators. If the Prime Minister of Canada promised to amend, correct and change the GST bill, I want to know if he made this promise in public or privately, to Senator Solange Chaput-Rolland, or somewhere else.

So what is the exact nature of this promise?

I think it concerns us all.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** That's quite a change!

**Senator Hébert:** Quite a change indeed! What does he want to amend and what does he want to change?

**Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister of State (Federal-Provincial Relations)):** Honourable senators, statements by a colleague like Senator Chaput-Rolland are not part of my ministerial responsibility. It is therefore not up to me to answer on her behalf. I understand, however, that she was alluding to a speech or a reply by the Prime Minister to questions asked the other day by students in a school in Burnaby, British Columbia.

I have already promised to get at least one copy of the article I read in the *Globe and Mail* and lay it on the table. This article contains direct quotes from what the Prime Minister said on the subject, and it was on these quotes that Senator Chaput-Rolland based her statement.

**Senator Hébert:** I repeat, this is not a question for Senator Chaput-Rolland. I am asking you the question because you are in a better position to know what these promises by the Prime Minister were.

She says that the Prime Minister of Canada made her some promises. That is why she voted against the amendment, with the government, because "her Prime Minister", as she says, had promised and she expected the Prime Minister to keep his promise and amend, correct and change the bill.

These are not loose words. It's all there in black and white. Senator Chaput-Rolland is a writer and journalist. I hardly think she was making this up as she went along.

**Senator Simard:** Wait until she is here!

**Senator Hébert:** That isn't the point. I am asking the Leader of the Government in the Senate to find out when the Prime Minister made such promises.

If he doesn't want to do it now, let him come back and give us the facts.

If the Prime Minister did not promise Senator Chaput-Rolland or anyone else that he would do this, do you realize how embarrassing it will be for the senator, who voted with you because she believed those promises?

**Senator Frith:** She was counting on it!

**Senator Hébert:** Yes, she was counting on it. She said: "I realize that the publishing industry is at risk in Quebec, and so forth. However, I am going to vote just the same with my Prime Minister because he promised to correct, amend and change".

So could you give us some explanations about this promise made by the Prime Minister, since this is quite serious?

**Senator Murray:** Honourable senators, unfortunately Senator Hébert missed an opportunity the other day to put the same question to Senator Chaput-Rolland.

**Senator Simard:** He was absent!

**Senator Murray:** It is up to Senator Chaput-Rolland to explain what she said in her speech.

I would suggest that the senator take advantage of the next opportunity he has to put this question to his colleague.

Honourable senators, I must leave. I have an engagement at 4 o'clock.

SPEECH OF HONOURABLE SENATOR CHAPUT-ROLLAND—  
PROMISE BY PRIME MINISTER TO AMEND LEGISLATION

**Hon. Jerahmiel S. Grafstein:** Honourable senators, I have a follow-up to that response. I am curious about Senator Chaput-Rolland's promise. I am reading the English translation of that—

**Senator Barootes:** It loses a bit in the translation.

**Senator Grafstein:** Let me read the particular translation. Perhaps Senator Doody and Senator Castonguay might assist in this response. At page 3546 of *Senate Debates* on Tuesday, October 30, 1990, the Monday volume, the English translation states:

... I was afraid of this tax, but I wished very strongly that the Prime Minister of Canada would fulfill his promise to amend or transform it, and that, out of loyalty for him, I would vote in favour of this tax because, generally speaking, Canada needs it.

Then she went on to say:

I have now said everything I had to say and I certainly cannot be blamed if you do not understand me.

There was then an interjection by Senator Castonguay who said:

Honourable senators, had Senator Hébert been here when Senator Chaput-Rolland had the floor he might have understood.

Senator Hébert then went on to say:

Perhaps I understood better than you think, but if you want the floor I will listen.

Senator Castonguay then responded:

You missed most of the remarks of Senator Chaput-Rolland. No wonder you cannot understand.

The question I would like clarified by the representative of the government is whether a promise was made—

**Senator Barootes:** Promise?