

Government Orders

An hon. member: Exactly!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The question was just asked. The Opposition Whip.

[English]

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to respond to that tirade of information as put forward by the hon. member, but no amount of rhetorical comments or references to documentations about previous committees, standing committees, or previous governments which may have looked at tax reform will be able to convince members on this side of the House, but more important, Canadians, that the GST is a good tax. We believe it is a bad tax and we should not proceed with it. That is why the Liberal Party of Canada in the Senate and in the House of Commons is opposed to the goods and services tax.

Specifically with regard to the hon. member's question, it was he and the Prime Minister who talked about the great reconciliation of federal and provincial governments. They cannot even get their Tory cousins to support the GST, Mr. Speaker. What nonsense, what hypocrisy by the hon. member opposite. He should know better than to stand in his place and ask such a ridiculous, ill-founded, illogical, stupid question.

Mrs. Catterall: Hear, hear.

Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a very simple short question.

I wonder if the hon. member would also include in his comment the former Liberal finance committee critic. Would he also consider him a bumbling eccentric?

Also, would the hon. member advise the House if, in his view and in his own words, Mr. Keith Spicer was in fact a bumbling, eccentric bureaucrat when the Liberal government appointed him language commissioner?

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the last question which was raised by the hon. member I think the answer, I regret to say, will now not be found in the appointment of a bumbling eccentric bureaucrat in his citizens' forum. I stand by that, Mr. Speaker.

We have had all sorts of evidence. We do not know where the citizens' forum is going. We hear one day they are not going to go into Quebec, then they may go into Quebec. We may have northerners. We may not have

northerners. We do not know the terms of reference, the terms of reference are changed. That is what I have said, Mr. Speaker, and I stand by that statement.

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to my friend's comments. I would ask him to comment on the problems facing a community like mine in Surrey where in the last several weeks the unemployment rate has gone up so that we have a thousand new claimants a week, where the number of people using the food bank has gone up by 200 families a month since August. There are now 5,000 families in Surrey dependent on the food bank—2,000 children dependent on the food bank—where the school board is being forced to look at feeding hungry children. People came to me over the weekend and said: "I have been laid off. I have worked at the same wood industry company for 15 years and I am going to lose my home".

Mr. MacDougall: That's the environmentalists, my friend.

Mr. Karpoff: Why say environmentalists? You can depend on this: It is your free trade deal, your high interest rates, and your high dollar that is driving the lumber industry out of business in British Columbia. The lumber industry is being driven out of business because of the Tory economic policies.

Mothers came and said to me: "My rent has gone from \$600 a month to \$900 a month and I do not have enough money left to feed my children". Their only comment was: "What are we going to do? How are we going to survive this Tory recession?"

It feels the same as the recession brought on by the Liberals in 1981-1982.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I concur with the former part of the hon. member's question. I thought he was going to go on and talk about the various job losses which have resulted from the free trade agreement. For his information and that of members of the House, I thought he was going to talk about Gillette in Montreal which closed and there were 590 jobs lost. There was Germain, in Lachine, Quebec, where 50 jobs were lost; Pittsburgh Paint in Toronto, 139 jobs were lost; Weston Foods in Longueuil, Quebec, 360 jobs were lost; and Northern Telecom, in Aylmer, Quebec, 680 jobs were lost.