

not only are we paying too much in taxes, and not only is the tax system unjust and unfair, but we cannot trust the people who are collecting the taxes because we cannot even trust them on something that does not cost anything.

The only cost in making the goods and services tax visible is a political cost. There is no financial cost to anyone. There is not a collection cost to the Government. It will not cost the consumer one penny more, but there will be a political cost. The provinces from April 7 to April 21 did not take the Minister up on his take it or leave it deal. They would not get on board and play the game of collecting the taxes, paying the price politically of collecting both the provincial sales tax and the national sales tax, whichever way it was put together. They would use their collection system and their collection points. In other words, they would pay the political price of collecting the taxes.

When the federal Government saw that that would not work it said: "Now we do not want a visible tax. Because we are going to impose the tax and collect it we want it to be invisible".

As we are talking about the excise taxes and invisible taxes, or hidden taxes or regressive taxes, the other thing is that Canadians have to understand what the hidden agenda is. Not only is there a political price to pay for imposing a 9 per cent tax on January 1, 1991, but there is no question in anybody's mind that by 1992 or 1993 with a hidden goods and services tax how simple will it be to raise that to 10 per cent, 11 per cent or 12 per cent. That is the other part of the hidden agenda.

Canadians have to understand that the Bill we are talking about tonight is a clear signal that we are not into tax reform. We are trying to bail the Government out early in its mandate by imposing a series of taxes. Part of the process was to eliminate the personal surtax. We were going to talk about getting more equity in the system. It has been pointed out by some of my colleagues who have spoken here this evening that people in low and middle-income families have seen their taxes increase by \$300, \$500, \$800 or \$1,200 depending on the level of income. That has begun to cost too much politically. We know how much it costs the families and how much it costs single parent families in particular. We know how much it costs people with young families who

cannot get any day care and there is an added burden on the parents.

Parents in Canada, men and women, children, the poor, the unemployed, the handicapped and the sick have to pay the taxes, be they excise taxes as we are discussing tonight, be they the goods and services tax that will come in in 1991 or be they the taxes that we are going to impose between now and then in various and sundry ways. However, the fact is that the people who will not pay the price are Members to your right, Mr. Speaker. They will not pay the political price of standing up and saying: "We need this much money to administer the affairs of Canada. You have elected us, it is our duty to collect the taxes from the people of Canada. It is our duty to spend the money". However, they won't tell us in a visible way: "We are going to take 9 per cent out of your pocket". The Minister said in the House that his idea of a visible goods and services tax would involve putting a sign up in a store. I will not even get into what that involves now.

• (2200)

One just cannot put up signs in stores now, that is not the Canada we live in. They have to be different sizes. They have to be in different languages, depending on what province one is in. They have to be at the front of the store, the back of the store, or inside or outside. Who is going to decide.

Mr. Benjamin: Hogwash.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The Member says it's hogwash. It is unfair but it is true.

Mr. Benjamin: Quit appealing to bigotry. You can put up any sign you want in Saskatchewan.

[*Translation*]

Do you know what is going on here, Mr. Minister? I hear a Member who has been here for 15 years calling me a bigot. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, someone who does not even know what I am talking about now, yet he thinks he understands the true nature of Canada. Unbelievable!

Mr. Speaker, when referring to people who have a pretty fair idea of what is going on in this country, one has to admit that they are talking about siphoning more money out of the taxpayers by levying a general tax on goods and services. It is a matter of really knowing what one is talking about. It takes a lot of nerve to accuse me