

Oral Questions

Ottawa South at the death of our member of the provincial Parliament, Dalton McGuinty Sr.

Dalton's service to the community is well documented: trustee and vice chair of the Ottawa Board of Education, executive administrator of the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award and MPP. Indeed, he did Ottawa proud.

A man of strong convictions, Dalton's success was in part due to his ability to look at the world and himself with a sense of humour. He enjoyed life and made life enjoyable for those who knew him.

Dalton set out his approach to politics in an essay he sent to me not long ago: "The politician as a Reflector or Beacon". He said: "The reflector view maintains that the politician merely reflects the consensus view of those around, regardless of his or her personal views. The politician as beacon considers the views of others, and looks to his or her own understanding and the dictates of conscience within. With a clear conscience, the only just reward. Let the votes fall where they may".

Dalton described himself as the beacon, and it is clear that people respected him for it.

To Dalton's wife Elizabeth, their 10 children, and the McGuinty family, our deepest sympathy.

* * *

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party continues to stand with the overwhelming number of Canadians who oppose this government's goods and service tax.

Yesterday, members of the House saw a feeble attempt by the Minister of Finance to undermine the unprecedented success of last week's anti-GST hotline organized by the Liberal party which received calls from more than 70,000 Canadian households calling in their opposition to the goods and service tax.

In response to a planted question—and a poor one at that—from the member for Halton—Peel, the Minister of Finance gushed as he told the House that since last August his toll free GST line had received about 100,000 calls from Canadians questioning the tax. After spending tonnes and tonnes and tonnes of taxpayers' money in promoting his hotline, the Minister of Finance has only received an average of about 400 calls a day. He cannot

even tell us if one of those callers supported this unfair tax.

On the other hand, the Liberal hotline which people had to pay to use because we have not abused taxpayers' money on this side, got over 10,000 per day with every caller opposed to the goods and service tax.

Today, I issue a challenge to the Minister of Finance: be brave, be responsible, be fair. Set up a 1-800 service that will give all Canadians a chance to vote either for or against the GST. The Minister of Finance may then finally see the error of his ways, do the right thing, and axe this tax.

* * *

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, last night I did something I thought I would never do. I slept with a Tory.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: In fact, I spent the night with a whole committee of them.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, it was not a pretty sight. Between winkin', blinkin', and Blenkie and snoring Dorin, I can only conclude that there is no happy ending to a bedtime Tory.

My Liberal colleagues, young as they are, did no better. They woke up to find themselves in the compromising position of having no position at all.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I really want to put on record is, though I slept with these Tories, it was the taxpayers who learned that love certainly means never having to say you're Tory. All in all, it was a very taxing experience.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PARLIAMENT HILL

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. I want to ask him about the unacceptable regulations the government proclaimed in force on March 14 dealing with demonstrators within 50 metres of the Parliament Buildings.