

*Time Allocation*

result, he has put in jeopardy small business people in Canada, and those in my riding.

I see my time is coming to an end. Before I finish, I want to quote a constituent of mine who called the GST hotline to get information on the GST. He is a small businessman. He said: "While they gave me very good information on certain questions I had, one person asked me if there was any other country I would like to live in. I happen to be a third generation Canadian, going back to the early 1800s. My father served in World War I and I served in World War II and I do not appreciate being asked this question just because I had opposition to the GST".

Quite frankly, that question portrays the attitude of this government toward those who oppose it. Instead of listening to opposition concerns, taking them in and trying to develop some sort of alternative that might reflect what small businessmen, seniors and farmers are saying out there, it brings in closure instead. It brings in time allocation to stop debate on this issue.

There are other approaches. There are approaches and alternatives that have been put out by different groups. I think that these should have been discussed. The process should have started with discussion, first, and then the alternatives.

Our party does have an alternative to the GST. We want to scrap the tax. We want to open discussions, talk with Canadians, small businessmen, farmers and seniors about their concerns. I think that is the proper approach.

I see you are signalling that my time is up. I appreciate having the opportunity to speak on this question.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Yvon Côté (Richmond—Wolfe):** Mr. Speaker, I will not hide from you that I am more convinced than ever that it is important to pass this legislation as quickly as possible.

I am even more convinced because of what I just heard the previous speaker say. His statements and allegations are totally unfounded and so erroneous that I am more determined than ever to get the debate over with, because these falsehoods are likely to frighten our

people and have nothing to do with the legislation we are preparing to pass.

I also deplore the fact that my hon. colleague who just spoke and who is also a backbencher did not take more time to read the legislation a little more thoroughly and report back to his constituents. He gave some examples like farmers and small businesses, but he could have given them clarifications to show that he really represents his riding. But alas, what I just heard from him is false.

So I repeat, Mr. Speaker, it is urgent to pass this bill and to get it over with once and for all.

After years of studies, analyses and reports on the problems of our present system, now more than ever is the time to act, not to talk and distort reality.

In the past few months, we have seen a whole slew of tactics and tricks from the hon. members opposite, and I just heard another example of it.

Did they make statements to improve the bill? They did not. Did they suggest alternatives to the present unfair system? They did not. Mr. Speaker, I have not heard a single constructive remark in all the speeches they have made so far. All they have done is criticize. All they have done is use scare tactics on Canadians, especially on certain groups tire senior citizens. All the delay, all the problems they raised were just a lot of petty politics. This is just one more example of the opposition's traditional tactics of scaring people and not moving an inch, so that we now have this disastrous legacy including our cumulative annual deficits—our national debt—and what they did was merely maintain the tax system we have today that is so unfair to Canadians.

Both opposition parties know perfectly well that we must change the present federal sales tax—a hidden tax—and do so drastically. They know perfectly well we must reduce the deficit—

**Mr. Young (Gloucester):** You increased it by 45 per cent since 1984.

**Mr. Côté:** —and control our debt so we can get rid of it altogether. However, in their, I would say, cynical campaign against the GST, spokesmen for these two parties have tried to scare, as I said earlier, the most vulnerable members of our society: senior citizens and low-income families.