

*Supply*

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments. Only two minutes for the hon. member for Burin—St. George's, and two minutes for the hon. member for Essex—Windsor to answer.

[English]

**Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's):** Mr. Speaker, on that point, I just suggested you were taking orders from Charbonneau. There is nobody on that side suggesting Charbonneau is not being fair, is there? Anybody over there suggesting he is not being fair?

Mr. Speaker, I listened with great attention to my good friend, the hon. member for Essex—Windsor. I have the greatest admiration, I say to him, for people who can make—

**Mr. Cooper:** Terrible, terrible.

**Mr. Simmons:** I know you are terrible but I am not talking about you now.

The gentleman for Essex—Windsor raises in me nothing but unadorned admiration because I have great admiration, unfettered admiration for people who can make good, 20-minute-long, tongue-in-cheek speeches, without so much as a smile to let on what they are really up to. I heard him talk about being for this and against this on several issues throughout the 20 minutes. It has to be the best tongue-in-cheek speech that I have ever heard or else one of the most inconsistent, entirely inconsistent speeches I have heard, because he was all over the block. So I am going to help him focus in the two minutes we have left in this segment. I am going to put a very direct question to him which can be a yes or no answer.

The question to my friend, the hon. member for Essex—Windsor, is simply this: will he now stop the word games and will he give an unequivocal commitment to this House that he will support the Liberal senators in the Senate, unequivocally, in their fight to stop the GST? Will he be dissuaded from playing the word games and concentrate on helping us stop that terrible GST while we have time to do so?

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I think you said two minutes. Very briefly I, of course, feel that this government should not be proceeding with the goods and services tax. It is quite clear from what the Conference Board has said, an independent body—

**Ms. Copps:** Do you support the Senate?

**Mr. Langdon:** I will come to that if you will stop heckling. Just hang loose, guys. I would not want to be a senator, believe me.

What has to take place is a defeat of the GST, without question. There are at least three key elements to that defeat. The first is the Senate fight which is taking place. I think that that Senate fight is a fight which, although it dismays many people, is nevertheless a fight which has to go forward. Second, I think there need to be court challenges taken forward, as the Ontario New Democratic Party government intends to take forward. I am sorry to see, for instance, that no Liberal provincial government has decided to take such a court challenge forward. Finally, and most important, this fight must be supported by the people of Canada, across this country, because that is the way that we can stop a government from ramming an unfair, unjust, tax down the throats of Canadians.

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. colleague, the member for Essex—Windsor, for being as frank as he was about his party's position on the Senate. I welcome his statement and I welcome his position. What troubles me is that, over the last number of weeks, we have had more positions from his party than I care to mention on that particular issue. On the one hand, we have his House leader who stands up in the House, beats his breast for all of western Canada and says: "We want to abolish the Senate, those nasty senators who are carrying out their responsibilities". On the other hand, when it suits their purposes, the same House leader finds himself in the Senate associating himself as closely as possible with the able work of the senators to kill the GST. Could the hon. member for Essex—Windsor let his colleagues know that his clear and unequivocal position is to support the Liberal Party in its fight to kill the GST? If we unite, and this is not just the members of the opposition, not just the members of the fringe parties here in Parliament, but if we as Canadians unite in opposition to the GST, maybe we can force the government to back down.

It is significant that the hon. member for Hamilton—Wentworth stated in this week's newspapers that he has considered crossing the floor and giving up his seat, that in the 11 or 12 years that he has been in Parliament, that he has never had as many calls, letters, and pleas from Canadians to kill the GST.