

*Adjournment Debate*

GST will be straightforward, simply the subtraction of tax paid on purchases from the tax charged on sales.

However, the government recognizes that many small businesses have limited administrative resources. Consequently, a number of special measures will be adopted to further minimize the overall compliance burden for them. These measures include a sales tax threshold below which vendors will not be required to register, collect or remit GST; optional annual reporting to reduce the frequency for GST remittances; government assistance to upgrade cash register systems for automatic calculations of GST and provincial retail sales taxes; streamlined methods of accounting to simplify check-out counter procedures for retailers who sell a combination of taxable goods and tax free basic groceries; and a transitional credit of up to \$1,000 to help ease the transition of the new system.

• (1830)

I might say, if the hon. member wants to look into it, the procedure required by small business to claim federal sales tax today, the manufacturers' sales tax, is an absolute nightmare. I know. I have run businesses, and I have had to do it for years. I know what you go through. You do not know what you are talking about.

**Mr. Gagliano:** I have been doing their books for many years.

## JUSTICE

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary is having a bad night.

**Mr. Kempling:** I'm having a good night.

**Mr. Kaplan:** He is getting good questions, tough questions, but he is not giving good answers. However, I would like to give him one more chance by referring to the question I asked the Minister of Justice as long ago as October 2, 1989. October, November, December and January have gone by.

I will refer to a portion of the answer of the Minister of Justice in a moment. I think it is at least time to get an update on the action promised by the minister in the answer he gave me to my original question.

I was talking about the lack of a sense of urgency on the part of this government in dealing with the drug problem in our country. It is a problem which, at the

level of rhetoric, has attracted a lot of government interest, but at the level of action has attracted a lot less.

I was asking about measures the government brought forward, which we gladly assisted in putting into the law of our country, to permit the law to pursue the proceeds of crime into whatever apparently honest dealings or honest forms they might have taken after the crime was committed.

The legislation went through but I think the government has gotten cold feet. I say that because the legislation has been used very little, and necessary amendments recognized by the government and supported by us have not been brought forward to make the legislation stronger.

We learned, and I think the minister was one of the first to comment publicly, that a lot of municipal police forces are refraining from using this section of the Criminal Code because, as they say, it is an expensive procedure for them to use. If they result in nailing some criminals and extracting the proceeds, those proceeds have to be turned over to the federal treasury.

I rose and asked the minister about the idea of allowing the municipal police forces who get the proceeds, who go to the expense, or the provincial governments behind them that go to the expense of expropriating these proceeds, to keep them. He said: "That is a good idea". And it was a good idea.

Then he added, and this was last October:

As I said, we are looking into the matter. As soon as we have established the rationale on what action could be taken we will take that action.

[*Translation*]

Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister did promise to follow up on this. And now, a few months after he made that commitment, I am asking him what have we got? I am aware that no legislation has been proposed, but is he going to take action soon? In a spirit of co-operation, will he tell the other government levels that they can expect to keep the proceeds of crime, in accordance with the law and Bill C-61?

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by saying that I am not an enthusiastic admirer of the American administration, not really. But they did experience a drug crisis and take action. Right now the President of the United States is risking his life to go to Cartagena in Columbia where he is not particularly welcomed, just so he can keep up the fight against drugs. Whether you approve of his policy or