

think that clarification is useful and I think we felt it was a useful time.

However, I want to make it perfectly clear, in case there is any element of doubt in anyone's mind, that we in the New Democratic Party oppose this GST completely and totally.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: We have no inclination to assist, encourage, work with or co-operate with this government, as presumably the Liberals have, under any condition. There is no willingness to co-operate.

My good friend, the member for Ottawa—Vanier, did not say whether they were supporting this. He said they had some questions, to be fair. We have seen the co-operation. As a matter of fact, we just saw it earlier today. I tried to argue that what the government was doing was inappropriate but my friends, the Liberals, were saying that was a spurious sort of argument and that they would like to support the government once again. This is getting to be a boring repetition, the Liberals supporting the government from time to time.

However, just in conclusion, because I think it is appropriate that I give a clear signal to the Government House Leader, I am prepared to discuss anything. If we can find a way in this motion that would not be, in any way, co-operating with the government on its GST initiative, but would in fact permit a more open and useful debate to identify the pros and cons as different groups see them, that is something that I want to consider seriously.

I understand the House Leaders will be meeting later today to discuss a variety of issues. I suspect that hon. colleagues would say this ought to be one of them in terms of procedure. I am certainly willing to entertain that discussion at that point.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Well, I surmise that there is no consent right now but you will have discussions.

Before I recognize the hon. member from Trois-Rivières for debate, there is a point of order from the hon. member for Surrey North and also from the hon. member for Ottawa South. On a point of order, the hon. member from Surrey North was rising first.

Government Orders

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, I am rising to speak to Bill C-62.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am sorry. The hon. member for Ottawa South on a point of Order.

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, while I obviously will support the position of my whip on the matter raised, I would like to observe that yesterday I was one of those members the government House Leader referred to who had an opportunity to put questions to the minister. I was very grateful for the opportunity to put questions, but I put the same question two times and the minister made no reference to the substance of the question in either of his answers. I would like to suggest that if the minister is kind enough to come that he answer the questions.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity—

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member has the floor and he has spoken. The hon. member for Trois-Rivière.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to take part in this debate on the goods and services tax bill. Thanks to this legislation, we will be able to strengthen our economy—

[*English*]

Mr. Riis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Rodriguez: Order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the hon. member from Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that you can selectively decide if you hear a point of order or not. I clearly rose on a point of order at the beginning of debate and I would like to make a motion. The motion is:

That the member for Surrey North now be heard.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am afraid the hon. member is just a little late. The hon. member from Trois-Rivière has the floor.