

*Government Orders*

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, what a glorious opportunity it is today to hear an hon. member from that particular party stand on the floor of the House of Commons and quote from a bible, and it is gospel. The only one he has to refer to is the hon. member who happens to be the premier of the province of Ontario. I guess he wants those of us in this Chamber, on this side of the House as well as on that side of the House, to follow the prescriptions of the premier of the province of Ontario.

Perhaps he would be kind enough to indicate whether or not he concurs with the steps that have been taken by his colleague, the premier of the province of Saskatchewan, when large numbers of hospital beds have been closed as a result of the actions of that provincial government. It was not less than 48 hours ago, in terms of House time, that the hon. member and his party condemned other provincial governments.

Let us see if he has the intellectual honesty to stand in his place and throw blame at the provincial governments in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario.

To the three specific questions the hon. member posed, let me say to him that his medication—and it is obvious that he has taken an overdose today—has affected not only his brain, which one has questions about, but his thinking ability. The hon. member is dead wrong not on one issue, not on two issues, but on three issues. Whether you play for the Blue Jays or the Montreal Expos, you are out. We have said very clearly, I say to the hon. member, time after time after time that when it comes to the free trade agreement with the United States we will renegotiate it.

Now to the hon. member in the NDP it is called catch-up time. Bob White picked up the phone, called the leader of the NDP and said: "You really bummed up last time. You had better watch it. You had better be against this agreement. You have to tear it up and you have to get rid of it". That is the position of the NDP.

With regard to the GST, the leader of the Liberal Party responded very clearly on the floor of the House of Commons. I do not want to question the attendance record of the hon. member because I know he is probably here all of the time. Perhaps on that particular day he must have missed the interventions of the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada who responded clearly and unequivocally to whoever asked the question on the floor.

With regard to the North American free trade agreement, the hon. member must be in a trance. He must be completely out to lunch. We are the party that has been challenging the government opposite to produce the necessary documents, to provide us with the information, and to inform us as to what the substance of that agreement is going to be. We have set the preconditions it must meet before there can be a consummation. We have looked at this as an opportunity to open up the free trade agreement.

I say to my hon. friend that before he stands in his place on the floor of the House of Commons and deliberately misleads—and I use those words—the House, he should check the written word in *Hansard* to see what has been said not only in this party but on that side. Before you rise, Mr. Speaker, we know the real reason why the hon. member makes those assertions. It is because of the polls which he reads continuously. He sees that his own party in his own province is continuing to go down the tube.

**Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, I think what we have had is a demonstration of the proof that everyone is entitled to a defence. There is no better person than a lawyer to provide that defence, no matter how flimsy and ineffective it is.

I congratulate the hon. member on the bombast and the defence of the miserable position of his party. There is no unequivocal statement on the part of the member that they will abolish the GST. He did not stand in the House and say that. I would just have the public and the others reflect on the matter that he did not say that.

He did not say that they would get rid of the GST. Anyone would certainly want to negotiate a better agreement with the Americans, to terminate this disgusting agreement we have now. Of course the weak and miserable position of the Liberal Party, defended so eloquently by the counsellor from Nova Scotia, falls on its face. He failed to make the key point that they will get rid of that Canada-U.S. trade agreement.

They stood in the House in the debate. They changed the motion in order to eliminate the North American free trade agreement. They have joined with the NDP in this House asking for the Prime Minister to provide the details, the sectorial arrangements that have been made. We have all asked for that. They stand up, knowing the record of Mexico and knowing the destruction of Canada, and they will not take the position that they will not participate in that disgusting, destructive agreement.