

and I go back up north and tell everyone there to relax, that they have been ignored one more time? In a country with ten provinces and two territories, 12 people have been appointed from the ten provinces, and the territories have been forgotten. Can we go there now and tell the people to relax, to forget it, that Mr. Spicer will show up with his snowshoes and parka in Tuktoyaktuk, and if someone wants to come and talk to him, he can? Can we assure the people up there that they do not have to worry about getting all exercised about having someone on this forum, that under any and all circumstances there will not be any northern representation on the forum?

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I am sorry that Liberal senators have such a hate on for Keith Spicer. I do not quite understand the reason for this.

Having said that, with regard to the question asked by the honourable senator, I answered it several times yesterday and several times again today.

Senator Lucier: Honourable senators, I would like to say that I have never met Mr. Spicer, so I really do not have much time to hate him. I have a hard time hating people I know, let alone the ones I do not know. I have never met him.

Senator Haidasz: You are fortunate.

Senator Lucier: I have never even spoken to him. I do not hate him, and I never have.

I very much detest the position he has been put in. I also detest the fact that the Prime Minister has structured this board so that there is no northern representation. Mr. Spicer did not structure the board; it was the Prime Minister who structured it.

Senator Haidasz: Be glad you never met Spicer.

FITNESS OF CHAIRMAN TO PURSUE OBJECTIVES OF COMMISSION

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, in view of the fact that Keith Spicer as former editor of the Ottawa *Citizen* wrote many abusive articles about this chamber and its members, to which even Senator Marshall objected and moved a motion, does the Minister think that Keith Spicer is fit to study the objects of the commission which the Prime Minister announced the other week?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, we all have our eccentricities. Surely, we can permit Mr. Spicer that one.

Senator Haidasz: Eccentricities do not have to include abuse.

● (1550)

[Translation]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

SPEECH BY SENATOR CHAPUT-ROLLAND—POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS TO BILL

Hon. Jacques Hébert: Honourable senators, I have another question for the Leader of the Government in the Senate, on another topic.

[Senator Lucier.]

It is about a rather surprising statement. I will just read a few lines from the impassioned speech made by Senator Chaput-Rolland on October 30. I quote:

Honourable senators, I do not think I made myself clear.

Perhaps not.

I explained the position I took as an author, saying . . .

I beg your pardon!

Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard: Honourable senators, on a point of order.

Is this some kind of new initiative, a warning to Canadians that Liberal senators will attack people who are not in this Chamber, including Mr. Keith Spicer and my colleague, Senator Chaput-Rolland?

Why don't you wait until these people are in the Senate or until you meet them outside Ottawa or in committee, to tell them what you have to say?

Is this an indication of your arrogance and despair? Are you crazy or what! This is cowardice!

Senator Hébert: Honourable senators, I want to make it clear that I have no intention of attacking Senator Chaput-Rolland.

Senator Simard: But you are!

Senator Hébert: No, I am not, I am quoting her.

You just assumed that I wanted to attack her. Typically, you always assume other people react the same way you do. I have no intention of attacking Senator Solange Chaput-Rolland, and I said it one last time because I am not sure you were listening.

I simply want to quote a paragraph from the impassioned speech she made yesterday on books, and then I want to put some questions to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I am referring to a very serious statement that should be of interest to all senators, including yourself.

Senator Simard: Wait until she's here!

Senator Hébert: I don't have to, since my question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Senator Simard: That's the problem . . .

Senator Hébert: Senator Murray, would you ask him to calm down!

So I will continue my quote from Senator Chaput-Rolland's speech. She said:

I explained the position I took as an author, saying that I was afraid of this tax . . .

The GST, of course.

. . . and as an author, I hoped with all my heart that the Prime Minister of Canada . . .

And this is where it gets interesting.

would keep his promise and amend the bill . . .

You see, she is asking the Prime Minister "to amend it, to correct it". The bill must be pretty bad if he has to amend and correct it.