

It seems that, when the bureaucracy decides to draw up a law, since the laws, of course, are drawn up in this part of the country, the first thing they do is draw a circle from Montreal to Ottawa to Toronto and ask, "What is good for that area?" We keep running into that problem all the time.

Senator Murray has said that no amendments that we put forward will be passed. The Prime Minister has said—and I even heard Senator Murray say this—that perhaps, after the bill is passed, the government will look at making some changes.

Senator Buckwold: In the next budget!

Senator Lucier: Shades of Meech Lake! Here we go again! "Trust us! Let us put this in and then we will change it."

Senator Frith: "And your cheque is in the mail!"

Senator Lucier: Yes, "And your cheque is in the mail."

Senator Perrault: Don't hold your breath!

Senator Lucier: I am not a lawyer, but I know there are quite a few lawyers in here, and it would seem to me that it would make a lot more sense to amend this bill and pass a good law rather than to try to correct a bad law after it is in. Why does the government keep trying to get poorly drafted laws passed, and then say, "Let us see if we can fix them"?

Senator Grafstein: I thought that was the role of the Senate.

Senator Lucier: I think it probably is the role of the Senate to ensure that bad laws do not get passed.

Senator Grafstein: We were told by Senator Murray that if we had not been so nasty, he might have fixed some of these problems in a prestudy. So he is punishing the Canadian public because we were not good boys.

Senator Lucier: If we believed what he tells us, especially in this particular case, there would not be a lot that we would not believe.

Honourable senators, I do not know how anyone in this chamber, regardless of what side of the chamber he sits on, could justify causing a person in Dawson City, who is just as Canadian as anyone else and just as entitled to be treated fairly, to be treated in this way. How can you justify voting against an amendment that would allow this person to be treated not better than the person in Toronto but just the same? The people in the north have to heat their houses and they have to use electricity, and they are just asking that the situation be the same for everyone in Canada. What is wrong with that concept? Why would you take the people who need the most help and give them the least? On the fuel bill for a home in Toronto, the GST will be \$28. For the exact same home in Dawson City, the GST will be \$193. What kind of sense does that make? If it does not make any sense, then how can you just ignore the problem and vote for it? It is absolutely baffling to me.

I should like to discuss another problem that was put to me by some people in the north over the last few days. How do we deal with Aboriginal Peoples on this? Senator Lang may be able to relate to this. He has a nephew who lives up there and

he would know exactly what I am talking about here. If you go to Whitehorse or Dawson City to deliver oil to people's homes, do you go into the house after you fill their fuel tank and ask them if they are status Indians or non-status Indians or white? How do you decide whether or not you will charge the GST on the fuel? People cannot get an answer to that. They phone the numbers that are put in the papers but they cannot get answers to those questions. How do people know who will be charged this GST and who will not be?

Honourable senators, I can tell you something. The cost of heating fuel in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories—as well as in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia—has gone up considerably in the last few months, and it will be going up considerably more in the next few months. I can also tell you that the GST will not stay at seven per cent. I have said that before and I say it again. Regardless of who is in power, the GST will not stay at seven per cent. I am sure that within a year or two the people of Dawson City will be paying \$250 GST per year on their fuel bill.

Senator Perrault: That is indefensible!

Senator Lucier: It just does not make any sense. Honourable senators, I know that I get a little steamed up when I get talking about the people that I represent in the north—

Senator Frith: And you will pay seven per cent on that steam!

Senator Lucier: —but I can tell you that they are very discouraged and very offended by this piece of legislation. They are fighting it every way they know how. Was it not something last night to see on the news the people of Powell River withdrawing their Canada Saving Bonds to try to get some sense into this government, to try to wake them up. These are Canadians! These are people who honestly want to be good Canadians and they are being forced to do this sort of thing, to try to pound some sense into some people's heads.

Honourable senators, I know that I should not be insulting people when I am trying to get them to vote for my amendment but I really do not give a damn if you vote for it or not. I just want you to know that, when you vote against this amendment, you are voting for an unfair situation for the people of northern Canada, and for the people of the northern parts of every one of the provinces of Canada.

Some Hon Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Lucier: If you want to do that, then go ahead and do it, but as I said before, don't try to do it pretending you don't know what you are doing, because you do know.

Hon. Willie Adams: I have a question for the honourable senator. During your speech, you did not mention food and freight rates. I think the airlines will be raising their prices as well. The rate has already gone up quite a bit, even before the GST. Right now, for a flight from Montreal to Resolute Bay, one kilogram costs over \$6.50. Could you discuss the effect on costs to bring in the food to some of the communities once the GST is in place?