

ture programs. But they were rejected out of hand by the government.

The government should put the effort it is giving to the goods and services tax into a fair tax system, into helping those sectors of our economy that are in need, whether it is cleaning up pulp mills, planting more trees or helping diversify some of the economies.

Just think about that. If it had put that year-long effort into helping poor people and giving young people jobs and education, planting trees and cleaning up the environment, think how much better this country would be, rather than the havoc it is going to wreak on the economy in the early part of next year. Bill C-52 simply offers ongoing protection to the wealthy.

With the alternatives our party has talked about and the message we use in this Parliament to get it across, people will start to see through the shilly-shallying of the Liberals and Conservatives on the GST and Bill C-52. They are going to see a clear message coming from our party. I know they will support that.

• (1820)

**Mr. Gustafson:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member from the NDP seems to say that he is supporting RRSPs but he does not want to increase the level and he wants to use the socialist ideal of socializing everyone into the poverty level. These ideals have been rejected around the world. They have been rejected in eastern Europe and they are being rejected again and again. It is obvious that the NDP does not understand the importance of investing in your own country.

Why is the member opposed to Canadians investing in their own country, for the good of Canadians? I think he should rethink the whole idea of the NDP policy. There has been a love affair going on here between the NDP and the Liberals. They get to spatting over who is the opposition but they really have not explained what direction they would take in regard to creating some investment capital in this country.

**Mr. Gardiner:** Mr. Speaker, an hon. member suggested that the question was not worth an answer. It is not fair to treat the Conservatives that way. Even Conservatives deserve an answer.

### *Government Orders*

The hon. member touched on a couple of points in his question to me. He referred to the rejection of the ideals of the NDP in Europe and so on. The fact of the matter is that it is quite the reverse. People in Europe are rejecting the extremes of the right and the left and the strategy of social democracy and a mixed economy is becoming more accepted all over the world than ever before. I think it is ridiculous for members on the opposite side to suggest that people are jumping on the capitalist train. Whether that exists nowadays or not, I do not know. We all know about the efficacy of social democracy, about the mixed economy, something for which this party has stood for years.

The member also made comments about the poverty level as though under the New Democrats we are all going to wear grey jackets and what have you. Well maybe the hon. member was right, maybe the question was not worth answering, but I can refer the hon. member to some good background reading. On this particular point there is one particular group of people who have got together in this country and other countries, including some European countries the hon. member has talked about, who have helped people struggle out of poverty.

I speak of the trade union movement in this country. We make no apologies for working closely with people in the trade union movement. The trade union movement has fought to ensure that people have had fairness and equality, good wages and good working conditions, not like the party opposite that uses every opportunity to drive down and beat up unions whenever it has a chance. Those members will take all the benefits of working in an organized work site, just as they will take all the benefits of socialized medicine.

As my colleague from Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca always says so clearly, if they don't like it they can rip up their medicare card anytime. You know they are not going to do that, Mr. Speaker.

We have said clearly that this legislation helps the wealthy. We are going to slow down this legislation coming from this government just as we are fighting the GST because it is the Conservatives and Liberals protecting their wealthy friends once again.

**Mr. Kristiansen:** I would like to ask my colleague to elucidate a little further on some of his comments.