

● (1140)

[English]

Dear Customer:

As we prepare to send you this catalogue, legislation for the proposed Goods and Services Tax is still before the Senate. No one knows for certain if it will become law. If it does not, the existing Federal Sales Tax . . . will remain in force.

This presents us with a problem!

The selling prices of many items in this book have already been reduced by the identified amount of Federal Sales Tax (see page three).

Senator Buckwold, I thought you would like this line. I will repeat it for you.

The selling prices of many items in this book have already been reduced by the identified amount of Federal Sales Tax . . .

If the FST is not eliminated—

Senator Buckwold: I have a question. Did the senator say “many items” or “all items”?

Senator Simard: I said “many items”.

Senator Buckwold: “Many items”—we always said there would be many items reduced. I just wanted Senator Simard to know that all items will not be reduced.

Senator Simard: I did not write this letter. It goes on to state:

If the FST is not eliminated on January 1, the cost of these items to Sears will be increased accordingly and the selling prices printed in the catalogue will have to be adjusted. Of course if that happens, it will also mean the 7% GST will not be added to the selling price.

We'll make every attempt to ensure that you are notified of any price increase when you place your order and hope you will bear with us as we try to cope with this uncertain situation.

That letter was written a few weeks ago. We have now completed the first week of December. We are three weeks away from January 1. I think that senators opposite have shown much irresponsibility over the last three months.

Senator Stanbury: Who has?

Senator Simard: Canadians hope that you will come to your senses soon and allow this house to vote.

Senator Hébert: What is the question?

Senator Kenny: What is the question?

Senator Simard: This is a further demonstration of Liberal irresponsibility that we have been subjected to over the last couple of days by Senator Gigantès. If this is not filibustering, boy, I don't know what is. Senators opposite have already delayed the sending of cheques to Canadians—

Senator Corbin: What cheques?

[Senator Simard.]

Senator Simard: The first instalment of the refundable tax credit. That means \$80 million for New Brunswick alone, and this is just before the Christmas season.

I hope that senators opposite will allow us to vote. I, for one, am prepared to sit until January 1, but that will not be good enough for the people who wrote this letter and their customers, as well as people who are expecting their cheques. Why does Senator Gigantès not put an end to his foolishness and tell his colleagues to do the same?

Senator Kenny: Is that the question?

Senator Gigantès: Is that the question? Are you asking why I do not put an end to my foolishness? Is that the question?

Senator Simard: That is the first question I am going to ask.

Senator Gigantès: I will wait for the other one.

Senator Simard: The other one is: Why don't you come to your senses?

Senator Stanbury: That is our question to you.

Senator Simard: Please save this house from—

Senator Gigantès: Please what?

Senator Simard: Save this house . . .

[Translation]

Please save this house from promises about policies of a future government, hypothetical in 2000 or 2015. And since Senator Gigantès tells us he has alternatives today, are they the results of a recent study or did he own the truth when he was writing Mr Trudeau's speeches? Or did M. Trudeau himself not rejected Senator Gigantès' theories? But if someone lives in the past, it is Senator Gigantès, whose sole reason to live, whose sole reason to continue his debates in the house is to praise a guy who precisely represents the past, Mr. Trudeau.

Senator Corbin, I ask you to think about that over the week end.

Senator Corbin: I can think about it now if you want to get back to your seat. But I will not do it because it would be considered as a speech and I intend to do that later on.

[English]

Senator Gigantès: Honourable senators, I have the floor. If any senator wants to intervene, please ask for my permission. Otherwise, senators opposite will say that I am relinquishing the floor. I do not want to lose my place, because I have several more days in which to tell Tories how terrible they are. Please proceed, Senator Buckwold. I still have the floor.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold: Honourable senators, on a point of order, I am asking the Speaker if it is all right if I correct one of the statements made by Senator Simard.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: First Senator Gigantès must approve. He has the floor.