

possible, it may allow a greater number of members to ask questions of the minister.

I will recognize first the hon. member for Gloucester.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Madam Speaker, after that impassioned and resolute attack on the GST, it is difficult to have a very long preamble. Certainly the NDP has taken over the issue with a great amount of gusto and verve.

My question for the Minister of Finance arises from his speech to the House today, particularly his comment with respect to the monitoring that is going to take place on the information that will be available to Canadians.

The Minister of Finance will know that many, many Canadians, 74 per cent, still oppose this tax. Although it is alleged that it is because Canadians do not understand it, can the Minister of Finance tell us how Canadians can depend on this monitoring system that he well knows will not have any teeth, or any enforcement function? Can he tell us how he sees this monitoring agency defending the interests of Canadians and ensuring that the 13.5 per cent alleged saving by the dropping of the manufacturers' sales tax is, in fact, passed on to the consumer? How exactly does he see his monitoring system work?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, I am curious when I hear the hon. member saying that he wants an agency with teeth. What he means when he says that is he wants to set up an anti-inflation board type of bureaucracy so that on the one hand he is saying, set up this great big bureaucracy, but on the other hand, do not go ahead and hire 3,500 new people to administer the system. He cannot have it both ways, but this is symptomatic of the way the Liberals are dealing with this issue. They are sucking and blowing. Canadians are not going to fall for that.

In response to the specific question, how will the monitoring agency operate? First, it will be in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It will provide information to individual Canadians so that they will know how much existing manufacturers' federal sales tax is in the price of various products and what they can expect will happen as a result of the introduction of the GST to the price after tax of various products.

This information will be made available subsequent to the introduction of the GST, then they will help compan-

ies ensure that they do pass through to the maximum extent possible.

We have started this process. I indicated in the paper that went out earlier this year that the price of a car will go down about 3 per cent or 4 per cent.

Mr. Benjamin: You want to bet?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The hon. member says, "You want to bet?" The car companies have said that they are going to pass this savings on to their retailers and if the hon. member had any sense as to what is going on in the car market today, he will know that there is tremendous competition. There is cutting of interest rates. There is cutting of price. There are \$1,000 rebates that are promised for the full year by some of the companies.

Surely, the member understands that there is a great deal of competition to maintain market share. On that basis, I am confident that the market system will work. That, I think, is probably the best answer that I can give to my friend from the county of Gloucester.

[Translation]

Mr. Young (Gloucester): How interesting it is to see that our socialist NDP friends have now recovered their energy, for they had precious little to rave about when their leader had the floor of the House.

I want to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Finance. Should companies fail to make sure that the 13.5 per cent is no longer tacked on to production costs, and when your agency responsible for monitoring the implementation of the GST sees what is going on, in other words the money supposedly saved by consumers is not readily apparent in lower retail prices, just what will happen then? Will the agency to which you referred in your remarks be empowered to force these producers to roll back their prices, or is that simply something which will provide you with an opportunity to draw the consumer's attention to the situation?

[English]

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think that the English translation of what the hon. member said was would the monitoring agency oblige. In other words, I take from that that he is asking whether the monitoring agency would force a rollback. No, they will not be able to force a rollback. Constitutionally, there has to be a national emergency before there would be