

*Government Orders*

I wonder if my hon. friends opposite are of the same mind.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Mr. Speaker, we on this side have been trying to get the government to do this. Yesterday we moved such a motion and the government refused to proceed with the motion. The government had 15 members of its party stand up to stop this from happening. We are very happy that indeed the government is going to give us a chance to debate the GST, this terrible tax.

I have been reading some comments by the government Whip yesterday when he said it was time to listen to each other, to engage in vigorous debate on behalf of democracy and on behalf of good decision making.

We could not agree more. We will be here and we will debate.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the government was not interested in returning to the House of Commons until well into the month of January. We would have had lots of time if it was genuinely interested—

**Mr. Lewis:** With your consent.

**Mr. Riis:** Yes, but the government had not indicated that it was interested in having a lengthy debate on certain kinds of legislation.

If the government were serious in its request, is this the way to deal with tax legislation that will have an effect on people's lives for generations to come, to try to run legislation by exhaustion late into the night?

**Mr. Reid:** You are driving us crazy with votes.

**Mr. Riis:** Good, that is the point. I want to make it very clear to my hon. friend, the government House leader, that we are in no way going to co-operate to try to facilitate the passage of this legislation. Unlike the Liberals who are presumably prepared to facilitate debate, to vote the legislation in the House of Commons, we want to stop the legislation and we are not going to make any deals whatsoever.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** On debate, the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville.

**Mr. Manley:** I rise on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the member rising on the same point of order?

• (1510)

**Mr. Manley:** Mr. Speaker, it is on the same point. I think the reference by the NDP to co-operation from the Liberal Party in the interests of advancing the GST is totally unfounded. What we hear from our constituents again and again is that the behaviour in this Chamber is not worthy of parliamentarians.

I suggest that the kind of antics that have been carried on down there are very unworthy of this Chamber. We need to debate the substance of this bill which is demonstrably wrong. It is a bad bill, it is bad tax law, but we do not need to do it by acting like buffoons.

**Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):** Point of Order.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Point of Order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Consent has been sought and there is no consent. Therefore we just carry on with debate. The hon. member for Yorkton—Melville has the floor.

**Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):** Point of order.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Edmonton East and then the hon. member for Nickel Belt on a point of order.

**Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, just for the information of the hon. member and all other hon. members, my constituents are not terribly concerned about how much we debate the tax bill in this House. My constituents want this tax stopped.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think it is passing strange to see the Liberal Party quite willing to jump in with a suggestion made on the floor of the House to cut off debate at midnight tonight, from ten o'clock till midnight.

**Mr. Milliken:** We are not cutting it off; we are continuing it.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** They want to go until midnight. That is the proposal that the Liberals are prepared to agree to. We have said: "Let's have the debate on regular time". This is the time of the House of Commons for debate, not to come in during the dark of the night—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Parkdale—High Park.