

S. O. 31

Lately ministers having been saying clarification when they are speaking to farmers at home and tariffication when they are dealing with negotiators outside the country.

Tariffication will destroy supply management. There are periods of the year when U.S. poultry prices are so low that even a high tariff will not keep them out. We therefore call on the government to reaffirm its commitment to advance the concerns of farmers of supply managed commodities at the GATT.

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[Translation]

LIBERAL PARTY

Mrs. Monique B. Tardif (Charlesbourg): Madam Speaker, the Liberal Party of Canada and its leader continue their exercise in vacillation on the GST as on so many other issues.

Last night, in the second economic statement in as many weeks, a second version of their position was made public. In Ottawa last week, the GST was replaced with a VAT to be included in the price structure and thus invisible to consumers.

According to what was said in Toronto last night, the GST would not last more than a year under the Liberals, after which they would tell us what Canadian consumers could expect.

I may remind hon. members opposite that a consumer tax was introduced to put Canadian industries during this difficult period of transition on the same footing as their international competitors and that it was a visible tax at the request of consumers who wanted to make sure their government would not take advantage of the tax to increase program spending.

All Canadians, which means all consumers, have a right to know the true intentions of the Liberal Party of Canada.

A word to the wise.

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MEMBER FOR ROBERVAL

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Madam Speaker, today I would like to thank the hon. member for Roberval and Minister of National Health and

Welfare for his prophetic insight because yesterday the minister bravely conceded the next election to the Liberals.

In fact, the minister recognized the tremendous popularity of the Liberals when he admitted that his party was considering an alliance with the NDP. According to the hon. member for Roberval the outcome is a foregone conclusion. This is a political party that has hit rock bottom.

I therefore invite the Prime Minister to take a walk. Perhaps he could go across the street from 24 Sussex to see the Governor General and ask him to call an election immediately.

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[English]

LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Madam Speaker, last evening the leader of the Liberal Party made a major policy speech in which he addressed many subject areas in very general terms.

One such area was fiscal responsibility which invites some interesting comparisons. For example, he spoke of unwaivering discipline in controlling expenditures. Yet in the 15 years of Liberal government during the 1970s and early 1980s the rate of growth in government program spending rose on an annual average of 14 per cent. By comparison, in the past eight years of Conservative government program spending has been restrained to an average growth of less than 4 per cent each year.

Similarly, the Liberal leader made a general commitment to reduction of the deficit in terms of gross domestic product. Perhaps he does not realize that even in the depths of recession the Conservative government has reduced the deficit in those terms from 8.7 per cent to 5.1 per cent. That is the difference between promises and performance.

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MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, thought to be extinct, yet again the *Crosbicus* has lumbered out of the tarsands to wreak havoc. Known to be callous, verbose, obsolete and bumptious, untethered this creature meanders about causing harm to all that fall in its path.