

although I am surprised at what comes out of that little book of his from time to time.

Senator Murray: So am I.

Senator Olson: Anyway, I usually lose those questions, raising those questions of privilege, so I would like to give the government leader notice, if I may, and ask him what the government intends to do about the problems faced by some farmers, although not all, due to the farm credit crisis, and about the recommendations that were brought in by the chairman of that committee a few days ago. I am sure that all the evidence that we had was already well known to the government. So perhaps he could give us some advice on how the Farm Credit Corporation, and other measures they could use, could give some relief.

I would also like to know what the government's position is going to be with respect to the request made by the three western wheat pools, particularly in those areas of the Prairies where there have been six years of severe drought. Is there going to be any favourable response to that request?

As I said, I do not expect the leader to have that information with him today, but perhaps when we meet again on February 13 he will be able to give us very precise and encouraging answers to those questions.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I shall consult with the Minister of Agriculture on these matters and do my best to bring in a reply that the honourable senator will find not only satisfactory but encouraging.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

DISTRIBUTION OF GST PAMPHLET—FINANCE MINISTER'S STATEMENT—PROPRIETY OF DISTRIBUTION

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat: Honourable senators, my question to the Leader of the Government concerns a pamphlet distributed by, I believe, Revenue Canada. It was sent to me by one of my correspondents. It is headed "The GST Credit" and it was apparently included in some material the gentleman received from Revenue Canada.

First of all, on the broad question, in view of the fact that the bill has not passed the other house and has never been before this house, and considering the controversy that arose in the other place regarding advertising on this subject, is this pamphlet proper? Should it be sent?

Secondly, on page 2 it says:

Why the GST?

The GST is designed to achieve three important goals:

The first one listed is:

contribute to the deficit reduction effort.

It seems to me, if I heard correctly what has been said by the Minister of Finance, that the GST is to be revenue neutral and is not intended to deal with the deficit. If it is to be revenue

neutral, then why is it that in this pamphlet the government says it is going to contribute to the deficit reduction effort?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Honourable senators, I could make a very involved reply to that question, but, among other things, the honourable senator will be aware that, according to all the projections, the GST will markedly improve the situation of Canadian manufacturers and provide a boost to Canadian economic growth. That in itself will improve revenues to the federal treasury and help combat the deficit. There are other, perhaps more technical and also political, answers that can be given, but I would like to examine the text of the pamphlet that the honourable senator has before commenting further.

Is it proper? Again, I have not seen the pamphlet, but I assure the honourable senator that all the communications activities that are undertaken in connection with the GST do respect the comments made by the Speaker in the other place. Again, while I do not have the text in front of me, I think he will find that what the pamphlet does, first of all, is state quite clearly that the GST is not law and that it is still a government proposal which has to be passed by Parliament. Secondly, it is inviting eligible taxpayers, on a purely voluntary basis, to register and perhaps seek further information with regard to the tax credit.

So, again, without having the benefit of the text in front of me, I think that the honourable senator would find that the effort is within the four corners established by the judgment of Mr. Speaker in the other house.

Senator Molgat: Honourable senators, I will be pleased to have a copy made and sent to the honourable minister so that he will see exactly what the pamphlet says. However, with respect to the statement that it contributes to deficit reduction and the explanation of the minister that, because it is going to change the manufacturers' sales tax, it, in some way, is going to assist the whole system of government, that could be said of every action of government. This pamphlet says specifically that the GST is going to affect directly the reduction of the debt, and that is contrary to what the minister has been saying. He has been saying consistently that it is revenue neutral, and that is not what this pamphlet says.

Senator Murray: The honourable senator would have to define "revenue neutrality".

Senator Olson: No. Those are the words of the Minister of Finance.

Senator Murray: I do not think that the ideas of revenue neutrality and assisting in the deficit reduction are necessarily mutually exclusive.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have some delayed answers to questions.