

## S. O. 31

more to protect the environment even if it means jobs must be lost in the process, and 70 per cent believe that major spending on the environment would in fact have a *positive* effect on the economy.

It seems to me that the minister and his government are wildly out of touch. Perhaps the hon. member for Davenport could touch on the parks that have been proposed. If there are only five out of the 18 bioregions to be represented between now and the year 2000, that means the 13 representative bioregion areas would have to take place between 1995 and the year 2000. Would he comment also on the non-confidence matter.

**Mr. Caccia:** As usual, the member for Skeena asks very penetrating questions. I will try to deal with one of them at least and that is on the nature of his motion because I share his view that this is not the motion that would put the existence of this government into danger. Actually, I came into the House convinced that this would be a motion that the government and Progressive Conservative backbenchers could support with ease, in good conscience and also with a certain sense of political pride because it would reflect their own commitment. Also, no one would come into this chamber on January 2, 2000 and say "Oh, well, look. It is only 11 per cent. You have failed to deliver". I imagine the parliamentarians at that time would rejoice.

We certainly do not see this as a non-confidence motion. Even if the government were to interpret this to be a non-confidence motion, what stands in the way of them defeating it if they want to defeat it, if it is really that serious? But, it is not. If the government supports it, the government will not fall. Even if the government defeats the motion, it will have inflicted on itself a very serious political wound for the reasons we have discussed. So it seems to me that it would be a win-win situation for the government by coming in on Monday and voting for this motion. It would reinforce the political commitment and the political will that they have expressed internationally and at home, since the publication of the Brundtland Report.

[Translation]

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The question and comment period is now over. It being 1.18 p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1.18 p.m., the House took recess.

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, the goods and services tax as proposed by the Conservative government will, among things, severely affect post-secondary education and amateur sports in Canada.

The 7 per cent tax will hit students especially hard. According to the Canadian Federation of Students, the GST will cost students approximately \$200 a year. At McMaster University in my riding of Hamilton West, this will mean that a total of \$2.1 million will be extracted from students' pockets by this regressive Conservative GST.

Since half of all post-secondary students earn less than \$7,000 per year, students cannot afford to have the GST eat away at what little money they have left on restaurant meals, prepared foods and, yes, the very tools of education, books for their courses.

Also, many students have been very active participants in amateur sports. Like many families who have already found the cost of their children participating in amateur sports extremely high, students will also have to bear the additional burden of adding 7 per cent to the cost of memberships, equipment and travel.

Students, and 72 per cent of all Canadians, say enough is enough and call upon this government to scrap the tax.

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[Translation]

## THE QUEBEC WINTER CARNIVAL

**Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec-Est):** Mr. Speaker, under the theme "At the heart of the world", the 36th annual Quebec Winter Carnival will be officially launched tonight with the crowning of the 1990 Carnival queen.

This Winter Festival the pride of Quebecers, has over the years ranked among the largest festivals in the world. Of course, Mr. Speaker, this success is due to top-notch