

Government Orders

them and they have begun to realize it. What emerges on the scene is a totally new form of taxation, the GST. Obviously, they did not tell the electorate before the election of 1988.

I would not want to repeat it here as it is obvious that we know what Canadians think of the GST. I see the hon. minister responsible for tourism. I get floods of mail every week telling me that the GST is going to be disastrous for the tourist industry in the country. That is only one of the victims on the horizon and obviously we are going to hear more from these people in the future.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, governments have priorities. The issues most often raised by this government lately include the environment, sustainable development, deficit reduction—which is why they came up with the GST—and finally research and development.

The other day on television, I saw a scientist, whose name I forget, who is a member of the association for the advancement of research in Canada. He was explaining that our country's future was based on research and development. And since Canadians' education level is higher than the global average, our future definitely depends on R & D. However, the amounts allocated to research and development are getting smaller with each budget. If we compare our Gross National Product with that of countries such as Japan, the United States and even France, we see that we are not doing enough. And it is disturbing since we live in a world where innovations, inventions and technologies are introduced at an increasingly rapid pace. We must remain at the leading edge of progress.

I remember the National Research Council's previous director, Dr. Larkin Kerwin, a former dean of Laval University. He tried for a few years to demonstrate that Canada's future well-being lay in the field of research and development.

I am obviously not an expert in this area but there are so many articles and books on technological development that we cannot help but realize that R & D will be the backbone of our country's economic health in the years to come. However, very little money is being spent on research and development.

• (1730)

Of course, the Liberal Party of Canada went through difficult years because the recession forced us to practice deficit financing, but we have had time to think the situation over and in retrospect we now realize we can come up with programs that definitely will save the nation from the impending recession.

So, essentially, Madam Speaker, when the middle class have fewer opportunities to influence government decisions, economic stagnation is here to stay. If we choose to leave the interests of all Canadians in the hands of pressure groups, don't expect miracles. A simple look at the tax system that has been around these last 20 years, shows that increasingly the middle class have been forced to pay more than their fair share. You don't have to be an economist to realize that reform is needed in that area. I believe the introduction of the GST especially, which has brought more Canadians under the same cause than anything else over these last few years, will inevitably force us to launch an in-depth reform of our tax system, and this will be the beginning of a new era in Canada where the economic system will reflect the aspirations of all Canadians.

* * *

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT

NOTICE OF ALLOCATION OF TIME TO CONSIDER REPORT AND THIRD READING STAGES OF BILL C-62

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I wish to indicate on a point of order that agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Orders 78(1) and 78(2) with respect to the allocation of time to the report stage and third reading of Bill C-62, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act, the Criminal Code, the Customs Act, the Customs Tariff, the Excise Act, the Income Tax Act, the Statistics Act and the Tax Court of Canada Act.

Under the provisions of Standing Order 78(3), I give notice of my intention to move a time allocation motion at the next sitting of the House for the purpose of allowing a specified number of days, or a day, for the consideration and disposal of both stages of the said bill.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Madam Speaker, we have just seen another example of the