

for those who are currently there. That should not be very difficult to achieve.

Honourable senators, I would hope that at least some Conservative senators opposite, from regions such as Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, northern Alberta and British Columbia, who intend to vote against this particular amendment, would at least justify their actions to their constituents either by denying what is being said here today or by admitting that they knowingly support unfair taxation for their regions. Surely, their silence in the face of 85 per cent objection from their constituents, the signing of millions of names on petitions and the mounting opposition to this hideous tax, can only be interpreted as an abandonment of their principles and of their constituents.

If you are going to vote against the wishes of your constituents and for a tax which treats them unfairly, why not at least stand in this chamber and tell the people why you are doing that? Why not at least stand up and deny the things that I am saying are happening here? Why not stand and tell the people in your ridings why you are supporting this tax?

You don't have the guts to do it.

I have here some figures which I want to put on the record. I have made a few telephone calls and I have talked to some people in the north. There were even some people in Toronto who contributed.

To heat a 1,000-square-foot home in Toronto—and 1,000 square feet is not very big; that is a small condominium—on average it costs 20 cents per cubic metre for natural gas. It costs \$74 per winter month or approximately \$410 per year to heat an apartment in Toronto.

Senator Buckwold: Honourable senators, I would like to hear a very interesting and informative speech. Quite frankly, there is so much noise at the end of this room that I cannot hear it. I know that no one on that side is interested, but I would like to be able to hear what Senator Lucier is saying.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Senator Lucier: I will go back to heating a 1,000-square-foot home in Toronto with natural gas, at 20 cents per cubic metre on average, which amounts to \$74 per month in the winter months and approximately \$410 per year. The GST on that amount is \$28.

Senator Molson, I know this is not very important to the people whom you represent. Senator Molson?

Senator Buckwold: I wish the Speaker would ask for order. I would like to hear what is being said.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: Order, please.

Senator Lucier: I know these things don't mean very much to the people from your area, sir, but they are damned important to those whom I represent. I would like to have your attention, or at least quiet, while I am speaking.

The GST on heating fuel for that home in Toronto is \$28. That is not an exorbitant sum. I am sure that, while it is not easy, the people in Toronto could live with that.

[Senator Lucier.]

Yesterday I spoke to a lady from Dawson City. She has a 980-square-foot house. She has plastic on the windows, and the house is insulated. She has two children. It certainly is not an elaborate home, but it is a very liveable home.

Her fuel bill, which would be \$400 in Toronto, is \$2,700 in Dawson City.

Senator Perrault: What is 7.0 per cent of that?

Senator Lucier: Seven per cent on \$2,700 means that the lady in Dawson has to pay \$193 GST on her fuel bill.

Senator Perrault: Disgusting!

Senator Lucier: In fairness, if someone in Toronto is heating with oil, his GST will be \$72 rather than \$28. The GST on the fuel bill for the lady in Dawson is \$193. And let me make something clear: She does not have the option of converting to natural gas. That cannot be done up there. People in Toronto, who would pay \$72 GST, have the option of converting to gas. People in Dawson City do not have that option.

Senator Buckwold: And the tax credit is exactly the same.

Senator Lucier: The tax credit is exactly the same. The above cost does not include the electrical bill, which can be \$100 to \$150 per month in Dawson City. The GST, just on the lady's electrical bill, is \$30 per month. What kind of fairness is that? I do not like to pick on the new senators who are here, such as Senator Keon. I have said before that I expect Senator Castonguay, Senator Eyton and Senator Molson to vote for this bill. I have no problem with that. I respect that because the people they represent are not going to be affected by this, other than that they are going to pay less tax. We are going to pay more but they are going to pay less.

• (2050)

Senator Perrault: Tory justice!

Senator Lucier: It is no secret that the reason the manufacturers are supporting this tax is because it is good for them; so why shouldn't people who are here to represent the manufacturers vote for the tax? I have no problem with that. However, as I have said before, Senator Cochrane, Senator Muir and Senator Keon, you are here to be fair, which you have been all your lives.

I was on a call-in program in Whitehorse a few weeks ago, and talked to a person there named Lance Houston. Lance is a good Conservative and he and I have always been very good friends. I always send him a copy of our *Hansard*, and he called me on the program and gave me hell for having brought into the debate the names of Senator Keon, Senator Cochrane, Senator Muir and Senator Marshall. I told him at the time that the reason I brought those names into the debate was not because I have anything against those senators but because of their decency. I brought them in because they are decent people, not because they are not—and I would like them to know that. I would like Dr. Keon to know that I do not use his name because of any disrespect. I do so because of my respect for him. I am just trying to make it understood what is happening to people in other parts of Canada and what this tax will do.