

*Government Orders*

going to be made clear when they see how the tax will affect them.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I want to make something clear. Did the minister just confess to the House that his campaign is propaganda to counteract the opposition of members of this House? If that is the case, will the minister now commit himself not to spend one red cent until such time as the bill is passed? After it is passed—heaven forbid that it would ever pass—at that time I suggest that the minister could spread whatever information he needs to spread.

Meanwhile, will he admit to us that he has just told us this is a propaganda exercise destined to counteract what opposition members are doing in this House, nothing more?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I didn't say that at all. I said that it is important for people to get the information. Let me quote to you from the fifteenth report of the finance committee to the House in March, 1988. It said that if the government proceeds with the tax it should establish a private sector advisory committee to develop practical rules for the new tax and to publicize the details of the new tax.

Now this was a unanimous report of the finance committee, an all-party report. I think it is very clear.

My colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, has important information to give to senior citizens and people in low-income brackets to advise them how they should apply for the GST credit. It is very important that they put themselves in a position so they can receive the GST credit in December of this year, and clearly we have to make those arrangements at this time so that people can put themselves in a position to gain one of the benefits of the tax in December of this year.

**Mr. Soetens:** Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to the speeches today in the House by both leaders of the opposition parties and they relate to many of the concerns about which I get calls in my riding. Many questions concern the distribution of information, what is taxable and what isn't, and the sales tax credit. For example, here I have a brochure put out by the One Voice seniors' network listing some of the things that are taxable including water, insurance and some transporta-

tion costs. We know, according to the legislation, that that is not the case.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a question about the credit itself. I have listened to the opposition talk about those low-income Canadians and people across Canada who are losing their jobs and asking whether they will have access to the credit.

How will Canadians get this sales tax credit and when? Can the minister advise us just how many Canadians are going to be eligible for this tax across Canada?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Mr. Speaker, that is a very pertinent question because at this time people are receiving their income tax forms for taxation year 1989. In it there will be an application form for those people who are eligible for the GST credit. It is important that they complete it with their 1989 tax return because eligibility for the credit will be based on their income in 1989.

• (1745)

That is why we must proceed with getting this information out now so that they can be eligible and receive that first cheque in December of 1990. I believe something like 8.4 million families are involved. Some 84 per cent of seniors and families that are headed by a single parent will receive this particular benefit from the GST system. As colleagues opposite have just reminded me, the GST credit will be paid by cheque in advance four times a year so that people will have that money in pocket before they make their acquisitions.

**Mr. Barrett:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great curiosity to the positions given by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Leader of the New Democratic Party in response to this tax. If I may make an observation before my question, the reason the Liberals have not proposed an alternative is that they intend to keep the tax if they are elected to government. That is all there is to it. They will not stand up in this House and pledge that if they are elected they will remove the tax. We have seen this before.

My question to the two governments, both supporting the tax, through you, Mr. Minister, is this: Have you received support for this tax and its implementation from any provincial government and are you now in discus-