

*Government Orders*

The only real deficit reduction is going to be when we stop spending more than we take in. You might want to spend on other projects such as job training. Look at what is happening with this government that says to everybody: "We are the model of good management".

If it is such a good model of management then why it has to create this kind of account is beyond me. A good manager would know that money is fungible and it goes wherever it is needed. If it cannot control itself then that is why it has to create this kind of account.

It is saying it is managing so well and it is going to do all of these wonderful things with this deficit reduction account. But it is not preventing it from going on with its programs.

I believe just last week I heard of one. I think the Minister of National Defence announced a \$100 million capital project for Montreal. It is building a new warehouse for military goods. That is not to say that I think Montreal does not need the jobs. I am sure Montreal needs the jobs.

What I am saying is that I wonder if this the right time to be building and spending money on capital projects such as this when the stated objective of this government is to downsize the military and cut back the budget.

It goes on its merry way pretending in its sanctimonious fashion that it is above and beyond all this.

• (1300)

It carries on with its own agenda. So I am convinced that this particular bill is a total loss of time and that we in this House of Commons have far more better things to do. In other words, we have to save our country. Let us stop this absolute nonsense.

I am not going to carry on any longer. I want to give the government a chance to bring forward some real bills to help this economy.

**Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting opportunity this afternoon to speak on the goods and services tax once again by way of the amendment to the bill.

As has been stated previously, the amendment to the bill is simply smoke and mirrors. For Canadians, it has no relevance. What has relevance is the fact that our leader, the member for Yukon, has indicated that if the New

Democratic Party is elected at the next federal election, the goods and services tax will be eliminated.

That is a commitment to the Canadian people; this party in government would eliminate that tax. It is interesting that the Conservative Party, which will not form the next government, would keep the tax. The Liberal Party has clearly indicated it will keep the tax as have the other fringe parties, the Reform Party and the Bloc Quebecois. There is a clear choice in the next federal election to end this odious tax by voting for the New Democratic Party or to keep this odious tax by voting for one of the other parties in Canada. It is a clear, unequivocal statement at this point. It is a clear and unequivocal choice at this point.

There is a political solution, not the smoke and mirrors solution before the House today. Nothing will make this bill more palatable in the eyes of people.

Through this past summer I managed to travel through most of the communities in the area I represent. One of the greatest surprises I had was the reaction of the small business community, the chambers of commerce and each of the small businesses. Make no mistake about it, the vast majority of the people in those small businesses in each one of those communities do not vote for the New Democratic Party. Most of them did not vote in the last election for the Liberal Party. They are the supporters, the backbone of the Conservative Party of Canada. They donate, they vote, they get out to the meetings and they do the job.

They have made it absolutely clear they will not be there this time. Their cheques will not arrive, their support will not arrive. The Conservative Party has killed its welcome within that constituency.

I met with the manager of a hotel who is a very strong and prominent Conservative member in one of the Island communities. The individual happened to say that he did not mind paying tax but that the goods and services tax had killed his business. It destroyed business opportunities.

We should not be discussing today what we to do with the proceeds of this odious tax. Clearly we should be talking about the destruction and removal of the goods and services tax. It is a business opportunity destruction tax and I am proposing an alternative. Let us vote against this bill. Let us once again vote against this tax and get it away from Canadians.