

Supply

Madam Deputy Speaker: On questions or comments, the hon. minister.

• (1800)

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, that was one of the more lucid speeches I have heard from the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands. Most of the time his contributions are more what one might describe as pat. On this occasion he had some actual useful contributions to make. If I sound surprised, you will understand why, Madam Speaker.

I heard earlier when the motion was introduced by the hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca that this had to do with the GST. NDPers were still opposed to the Senate but in this case they were willing to make a pact with the devil, as it were, to accomplish their goal presumably because Shirley Carr demanded it of them or something. I am not sure of the reason but whatever it was, and as pointed out most eloquently by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands and others, they are straddling both sides of the fence. Hopefully it is painful.

The hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca talked about the GST and said that it concerned him. His party's finance critic, the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville, led the battles for his party on the GST. He was there with his pillow and teddy bear and blanket on the overnight filibusters and fought the good battle. Unlike his colleagues back there who gave moral support but went home to bed, he was there all night long.

The following is what the finance critic of the non-democratic party had to say in *The Globe and Mail* of March 28, 1990 when speaking on Bill C-62, the GST legislation: "I believe the Commons should have the final say. I do not think the unelected body should usurp the elected body".

An Hon. Member: Who said that?

Mr. Andre: The finance critic of the New Democratic Party.

An Hon. Member: Did he really?

Mr. Andre: The man who fought the GST. The fellow who gave his all to this battle but at the end of the day

said: "But I am a democrat, I believe in democracy". Is it a coincidence that he has not been here to participate in this debate this afternoon? I think not. He is probably at home ashamed of his colleagues over there.

I have not seen the House leader of the New Democratic Party either, the member for Kamloops.

An Hon. Member: Where is he?

Mr. Andre: There were some quotes from him. You may recall, Madam Speaker, the debate on Bill C-22 of the last Parliament, the pharmaceutical bill, when the hon. member for Kamloops, as reported in *The Ottawa Citizen* on October 30, 1987, said: "Quite frankly I am very disappointed with the Senate because I do not think it has the right to be holding up legislation".

An Hon. Member: Who said that?

Mr. Andre: This was the House leader of the New Democratic Party.

Isn't it interesting how the more experienced, the more senior members such as the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands quoted the former leader Mr. Stanley Knowles and others? One wonders what happened to that formerly great party to have thrown its principles out the window in that fashion for short-term political gain.

I would ask the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands who is an expert on the rules to comment on Standing Order 80(1) which reads:

All aids and supplies granted to the Sovereign by the Parliament of Canada are the sole gift of the House of Commons, and all bills for granting such aids and supplies ought to begin with the House, as it is the undoubted right of the House to direct, limit, and appoint in all such bills, the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations and qualifications of such grants, which are not alterable by the Senate.

I realize they are talking about appropriations, but the GST is certainly in that category. I wonder if the hon. member would comment as to whether this resolution is not tantamount to being out of order by virtue of being contrary to this Standing Order of the House?

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, the government House leader has raised a very good point. I had my book open at Standing Order 80, but I ran out of time in my 20-minute speech and I could not get to this point.