

Time Allocation

themselves before they look at the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Nault: Eighty per cent of Canadians are against the tax. That's a good job in six years.

• (1210)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I think the hon. member for Kamloops is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I must not have understood the news media last night. I thought I was watching and hearing members of the Progressive Conservative caucus who indicated they were not voting in favour of the GST. When my hon. friend says that the caucus is uniformly in solidarity behind this measure, obviously he is not speaking the truth.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe that is debate. The minister has one minute left.

Mr. McDermid: Certainly we know it is debate. We know who he is talking about. He is talking about someone who, from day one, has opposed the goods and services tax and who has been sitting on the outside of the whole debate and has not participated in a positive way, like the other members of the caucus have. The caucus is not disintegrating, I can assure my hon. friend of that. As much as he would like to see it, it just is not happening.

Finally, what we are seeing across this country is that approval for the goods and services tax is growing. It is growing through the understanding of how the system operates and how it works.

I received a letter recently from a small businessman, a manufacturer in my community who said: "I have done as you suggested and prepared a cash flow statement for 12 months under the present federal sales tax system and also one under the proposed GST. It appears that this is a case where I am glad to say I was wrong. Quarterly remittances makes a big improvement on our cash flow"—it is about 34 per cent by the way—"and offsets the outlay of cash when raw product is purchased. The GST tax credit on office supplies, et cetera, makes very little difference to our particular company but I can see in other operations it could be significant."

That is what is happening across this country as the small business community understands that this is going to be a great improvement. I can tell you, by 1992 the

Canadian people will be pleased that we brought this system in.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gagliano: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. May I ask the minister if he could table that letter so we can all see it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Would the hon. minister like to mail the letter to the hon. member?

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I did not read from it, I ad libbed around the essence of it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to talk a bit about the goods and services tax in the short time I have to speak on this. I say a short time because, quite frankly, many of my colleagues on this side of the House have been lining up to speak on this bill and have not been given the opportunity to do that because of time allocation.

I will start my remarks by talking about the government's attitude toward time allocation and its use of it. Since I was elected to this House, the government has used time allocation or closure 35 to 40 times. That is an appalling number of times to limit debate. Canadians want us to stand up and speak on their behalf on these issues. Yet time and time again this government has brought in time allocation to limit our abilities to discuss the issues.

The GST issue has only been debated in the House at report stage for 46 minutes, and we are already debating time allocation.

There are many serious concerns that the people of Haldimand—Norfolk want me to express about the GST. I have had various meetings throughout the riding with them.

I want to centre on three issues dealing with its effects on agriculture, seniors and our small business people. These are the people in riding who have come to me to express their concerns about the GST.

Farmers will now have to pay the GST on fertilizers, chemicals, fuels, lubricants, equipment repairs and all other general maintenance. To receive rebates, farmers will have to chase down every single receipt for money they paid in order to receive any funding back from the government.