

clear that in fact we have neither a contempt nor a case of privilege.

Finally, I want to say this. I think Madam Sauvé's ruling on a case very similar to this is in fact very pointed. I would like to refer to one quotation at page 3781 of *Hansard*. She said:

Rather, the advertising referred to by Members seems to deal with the issue of the constitution rather than the proceedings of the House.

We could take exactly the same words here, changing one. Rather, the advertising referred to by members seems to deal with the issue of the GST, as opposed to Constitution, rather than the proceedings of the House. In other words, Madam Sauvé found that the issue that she was dealing with at that time was not a contempt, was not a privilege; and, of course, we are in exactly the same situation today. Our proceedings continue whether they be here in the House of Commons or whether they be in committee. Our individual Members have not in any way been hampered or tampered with or intimidated in any way to prevent them from participating in this debate. The debate continues today. The debate will continue for some time to come, and the House will come to its decision. There is in no way either a privilege or a contempt. I think Madam Sauvé's ruling applies very specifically.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

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AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CLOSURE OF CFB SUMMERSIDE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the closing of CFB Summerside is one of the most callous moves that the Conservative govern-

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ment has ever made. It is devastating Summerside and, indeed, the economy of Prince Edward Island.

I had an opportunity first hand on Friday to visit the town council and the people of Summerside and found jobs are disappearing; homes, savings, tax base, merchants, and young people, will all disappear from Summerside and leave Prince Edward Island.

The Prime Minister's refusal to consider other military uses for CFB Summerside displays an astounding disregard for the people of Prince Edward Island. Summerside is not a "bullets and bombs" operation. It protects our country's sovereignty: surveillance of overfishing, surveillance of environmental danger, surveillance of the importation of drugs.

Premier Ghiz and the citizens of Summerside are working to find an alternative use for the base. I urge the Prime Minister of Canada, just for once, to stop and listen to the people of Summerside. Let us give them some help.

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FINANCE

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ken Hughes (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, the greatest challenge faced by Canada today is the annual deficit and the accumulated national debt. Balancing the books needs exactly that, a balance. Our nation needs to balance incoming revenues with outgoing expenditures.

Many Canadians in my riding of Macleod tell me that we need to go further on both accounts. They say we need to balance the proposed GST with the kind of spending restraint started by this government.

The following are a few examples of recent achievements: selling off 18 Crown corporations raised more than \$3 billion; new or increased user fees recover some \$300 million annually; and cuts in spending for defence, the CBC, VIA Rail, FBDB and other programs, grants and contributions will save billions.

No one likes taxes, no one likes cutting services, but friends and colleagues, Canadians with common sense know that Mike is right.