

*Government Orders*

And as I said, more than 70 per cent of Quebecers are against it. So why does he pay no heed to those who elected him fifteen months ago?

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, I must point out to my colleague that in a poll, when people are asked if they are for or against the GST, it is normal for them to be against taxation, be it the GST, an income tax increase or any other change. If I ask the hon. member himself whether he is in favour of any tax, he will tell me no. No one likes to pay tax!

I would also point out to him that a poll was taken in my riding and 77 per cent of the people were not necessarily against the GST. Organizations like the Chamber of Commerce were in favour of the GST at 7 per cent.

**Mr. Manley:** No, that's not true!

**Mr. Vincent:** The Trois-Rivières Chamber of Commerce is active, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Manley:** No, that's not true!

**Mr. Vincent:** It is active. The Chamber of Commerce—

**An hon. member:** That's false!

**Mr. Vincent:** If the Opposition would let me finish! They are for the GST at 7 per cent—

**Mr. Manley:** Six per cent with provincial participation!

**Mr. Vincent:** —as a first step and they would rather have the provinces with us. I told them to convey their message to the provincial governments. We should like to have the provinces with us too. We have no problem with that.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to my hon. friend that we have been elected as a Government to administer this country. To administer a country means that you may have to make decisions which are not necessarily easy or popular.

You must have faced this problem, I am sure. When an organization in your riding applies for a subsidy, although your constituents are all for it, you may have to refuse for one reason or another, including the fact that there is no money, or that there exists no single program to fully meet the needs. It is not because you are not providing your riding with the money your constituents are anxious to get that you are not a good representative doing your

job properly and protecting the interests of your riding, your province or your country.

**Mr. Gagliano:** In his speech, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance indicated that the GST legislation would be introducing a new simplified accounting system. Having listened to him carefully, I wonder if his departmental officials have explained to him what this new simplified accounting system is all about.

As members of the finance committee, Mr. Speaker, we have travelled everywhere in this country, and among the hundreds and hundreds of witnesses which we heard, not a single one of them was in favour of this simplified accounting system. They felt that the whole system was ridiculous and would only complicate things. President Bullock of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, for one, has totally rejected the system. As a matter of fact, he has also rejected the GST outright.

So, when the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary insists that there are business people out there who understand and support this legislation, I just do not know who he has in mind, because to date, a number of organizations, especially small and medium-sized businesses, have even used paid announcements in newspapers to denounce this tax.

I should like him, therefore, to mention the names of these people we do not know yet who support this legislation.

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to my friend from Saint-Léonard because in fact, before the Christmas recess, I spoke to the Laval Chamber of Commerce, the second largest Chamber of Commerce in Quebec, I think, and the hon. member for Saint-Léonard will correct me if I am wrong. After my speech, the chairman of the Laval Chamber of Commerce said: "The Laval Chamber of Commerce supports the GST if at 7 per cent". That was the second largest Chamber of Commerce in Quebec, Mr. Speaker.

In the circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member for Saint-Léonard, which is in the area of Laval, so to speak, should do his homework and perhaps get out and look at the real world around him.

Mr. Speaker, to answer the specific question put by the hon. member, I would like to ask him if he thinks that an act with 22,000 exemptions, because as we know the federal sales tax currently has 22,000 exemptions, is something that can be called simple? Is this something