

## THE SENATE

Thursday, November 29, 1990

[*Editor's Note: Continuation of proceedings from Issue No. 115L.*]

The sitting of the Senate was resumed at 9 a.m., Friday, December 7, 1990, the Acting Speaker in the Chair.

### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN WITHDRAWN

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, I am not rising in the debate, but, as the senator who moved the motion last night under Rule P-1(a), to withdraw that motion pursuant to its terms.

**The Hon. the Acting Speaker:** Is leave granted, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

Motion withdrawn.

#### EXCISE TAX ACT CRIMINAL CODE CUSTOMS ACT CUSTOMS TARIFF EXCISE ACT INCOME TAX ACT STATISTICS ACT TAX COURT OF CANADA ACT

#### BILL TO AMEND—MOTION FOR THIRD READING—DEBATE RESUMED

**Hon. Philippe Deane Gigantès:** As I was saying yesterday before I was so rudely interrupted—

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** By me!

**Senator Gigantès:** —by Senator Frith—

**Senator Frith:** The word “rudely” always seems to go with the word “interrupted”. You never hear anyone say, “before I was politely interrupted”.

**Senator Gigantès:** I was part way through reading, for your benefit, this excellent study by Mr. Neil Brooks, who provides one of the many alternatives. I will recapitulate this later and give you a clear, very slow explanation of exactly what alternatives to the GST are available. I will be very slow in both English and French because obviously yesterday I was having some problems communicating with Senator Poitras and Senator Simard.

**Hon. Jean-Maurice Simard:** Don't you start something this morning!

**Senator Gigantès:** So there are no doubts in anyone's mind about what I am saying, I will speak very slowly and very carefully.

**Senator Frith:** I do not want the metaphor taken too seriously, but is there not a saying about “sleeping dogs”?

**Senator Gigantès:** By the way, I was feeling very invigorated after my speech yesterday and had a marvellous dinner with someone who is arguably the most beautiful girl in the country, my 11-year old niece. She did not think much of what we were doing.

**An Hon. Senator:** Nor do we!

**Senator Gigantès:** Yesterday we were talking about improving incentives to save. I think we should go over that particular part of the text of Mr. Brooks, because, as he says—I can wait until you finish talking because I think it is important for you to understand this.

**Senator Doody:** You have lost your audience!

[*Translation*]

**Senator Gigantès:** Senator Poitras, please, pay attention, because you are always complaining that we have no alternatives. We do. Just listen!

[*English*]

I will repeat three of the paragraphs because they were important, and I had been interrupted yesterday.

One of the primary arguments that the government has advanced for the goods and services tax is that as a tax on consumption instead of income it will lead to a higher level of private savings, and thus a higher level of capital formation (that is, plant and equipment), and ultimately a higher standard of living for all Canadians.

This is Senator Poitras' argument. Again he is missing the answer, and later he is going to tell me that I have not proposed any alternatives. As I was saying:

... as a tax on consumption instead of income it will lead to a higher level of private savings, and thus a higher level of capital formation—

Is that not part of the lies your side is spreading around the country?

—(that is, plant and equipment), and ultimately a higher standard of living for all Canadians.

**Hon. Jean-Marie Poitras:** Don't tell me you are already tired without even having had a question!

**Senator Gigantès:** Would you like to ask a question?

Unfortunately, every link in this chain of argument is open to serious question.