

Government Orders

Mr. Young (Gloucester): This is what the Canadian Labour Congress had to say: "Today we again urge the government, through this committee, to withdraw the proposed GST and instead launch an independent systematic review of the existing tax system". That sounds good to me; that sounds real good to me.

Mr. Langdon: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The following are the comments made by the New Democratic Party in its brief presented to the Standing Committee on Finance: "The New Democrats would start the process toward a fairer tax—"

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will recognize the hon. member on a point of order.

Mr. Langdon: The point of order which I was finishing was that the member had suggested that he would outline the alternatives of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. He mentioned just one point from the brief and I would urge him, as an MP from that province, to—

• (1640)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is not a point of order. It is a point of debate. The hon. member for Gloucester has the floor.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): I understand the point being made by the member. I do not blame him for being embarrassed. If the New Democratic Party has a position, why does it want a royal commission? If you have a position, you have a position. The New Democratic Party says in its own brief: "New Democrats would start the process toward a fairer tax system by rolling back the level of the existing sales tax to 1984. Of course this would only be an interim measure, as New Democrats believe the time has come for another royal commission."

Mr. Whittaker: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, this is the New Democratic Party. It has a position and it wants a royal commission.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I believe there is another point of order by the hon. member for Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt.

Mr. Whittaker: Mr. Speaker, I know this particular member for Gloucester to be an honourable person. He has spoken of fairness and honesty with respect to

alternatives. I would urge him to wrap up his speech and give the Leader of the New Democratic Party the opportunity of putting some of those alternatives to the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Gloucester.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, the point I am trying to make is a very simple one. The government has had a lot of difficulty in selling the GST. The New Democratic Party has said over and over again that it wants a royal commission to be able to develop a position. I understand that. There is no problem with that.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Our position is very clear. We have said over and over again that the only basis for tax reform in this country is to deal with it in a fair and equitable way.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Saskatoon—Dundurn on a point of order.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I take exception to the—

Mr. Epp: That's not a point of order.

Mr. Fisher: The member has insinuated that the New Democratic Party somehow brought the CLC and the New Brunswick Federation of Labour—

Some Hon. Members: Debate.

Mr. Fisher: We had their support.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is debate. The hon. member for Gloucester has the floor.

Mr. Peterson: On a personal point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Epp: Personal? What's the difference between that and privilege?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Willowdale has a point of privilege.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House for the last 15 minutes listening to the member for Gloucester making very credible points. During that period of time I have counted and there have been 10 interruptions by the NDP on spurious points of order. I feel my ability to carry out my function on behalf of the people of Willowdale is being impaired by the disorderly conduct in this Chamber of those members. I can only