

Routine Proceedings

Because of the high interest rate of the government and because of the concern we have of the impact this is going to have on consumers, and particularly small businesses in the country, we want to move concurrence in this report which asks, of course, the government to reconsider this silly high interest rate policy.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I do not think our House leader felt that the NDP were co-operating with the government on the GST. That is not a message that would sit very well with the Canadian people. I think it is quite clear that they are not.

What we did feel was that we were getting a lot of rhetoric from the New Democratic Party, through the press primarily, about their willingness to debate the GST any time, any place, anywhere. We thought maybe it was time to have a demonstration of whether the NDP keeps their word or not. It is clear from the tactics of the last five minutes that they have no intention of debating the GST. They simply intend to waste the money, millions of dollars, of non-debate on the GST. Their only strategy is not to debate it. They do not want the Canadian people to find out what it says because Canadians are going to like it when they find out what it is about.

The only protection they have is to stifle debate in this chamber, try to keep Canadians misinformed or uninformed on the GST. We would like debate and if we have to, at a later date, move closure to get that debate, we will be prepared to do that.

Mr. Gauthier: That last sentence of the government whip has got to be something else. "Canadians will like the GST." It is the most regressive, hidden tax, the biggest tax grab ever taken out of Canadian pockets in the history of this country and he is saying to us that Canadians will like it. I think the member should go back to his riding and console those people because I am sure they will not like it.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I thought you had proceeded to petitions. If we are still on motions, first, I would like to know, is it in order for a motion to be moved at this time? Because I have been restraining my members in the interest of getting debate, asking them not to move motions because I know the tricks and everyone in the House knows what is going to happen. The NDP, if you recognize them, will get a 20-minute

speech on finance matters. Then the government will move to Orders of the Day and that is it.

I lose again my request for an emergency debate today. Our members are upset because I have asked them to hold back. I have members in my caucus who would like to move concurrence motions in many of these so-called reports of committees. I would like to see some co-operation in this House, not this kind of funny game.

• (1130)

Mr. Flis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I had my headpiece on and I clearly heard the Speaker say, "Petitions". I stood up because I have two petitions to present. I have been denied the right to table any petitions for two weeks. Mr. Speaker, you did call the hon. member for Kamloops. I thought you were calling him because he had petitions and that is why I sat still. But the Speaker called petitions. I stood up to table petitions. I would like a ruling on what stage of the proceedings we are at.

Mr. Speaker: I thought I had made the ruling. I was informed by the hon. member for Kamloops that he wished to put forward a motion. When he stood I recognized him. As far as I am concerned we were not in petitions. I know the hon. member has petitions to present, so do other members. Perhaps we will get to that, but that is my ruling.

I know that the hon. member for Parkdale—High Park has important petitions to speak to. I hope that he will be able to do that soon. All hon. members know that if, for whatever reason, they cannot speak to them they can be presented to the Table, but I understand the reasons for wanting to speak to them and I hope that can be met shortly.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I want to explain, first to my hon. friend from Parkdale—High Park, that as we were moving through Routine Proceedings I had approached the Chair and, about the same time he was about to move on beyond motions, indicated that it was our intention to put a motion in advance of a move to petitions.

I understand his dilemma. It is a dilemma that we all face. Perhaps I should remind my hon. friend the government whip that if he looks at the history of this House that it was the government that moved dilatory motions on four of the five days of debate. So, in a sense,