

Time Allocation

they are going to put in its place. Not one of them has said that.

Mr. Mills: That is not true.

Mr. McDermid: Except *le p'tit gars de Shawinigan*. He said very clearly: "We must be sure. We cannot wipe it out."

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I do not think it is too parliamentary for a member of Parliament to use that kind of facial expression. I think that is mockery. I do not think it is parliamentary at all.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I have to remind my friends that I have been in the House many times when Eugene Whalen used to get up and do exactly the same thing. I am not making fun of my friend, Mr. Chrétien. I am impersonating Mr. Chrétien when he says he would not wipe out the GST if he became the leader.

Mr. Mills: That is not what he said.

Mr. McDermid: Sure, that is what he said. His mouth-piece from Toronto has moved from his back-bench seat to the front row so he can heckle me. He can heckle all he wants. I am going on with my speech.

The Liberals would negate the bill, they have no alternatives.

Let me turn to my good friends from the socialist party. The socialists in this country have made it very clear from day one—they have been right up front with it, and I have to give them full marks for that—they would do everything to obstruct this bill—absolutely everything. They are not here to debate it. They are not here to try to improve it. They are here strictly as obstructionists.

A government was elected to do the business of the country, and that is what we are doing. That is why we brought in time allocation. It is obvious that they are not interested in debating the bill in an intelligent way. We have gone through a major consultative process on this bill. We have, for many years, been consulting all sectors of the economy on the goods and services tax. It is now time to get on with it.

We have some government amendments that have been introduced which improve the bill. They come from suggestions and consultations in the finance committee

under the able leadership of the hon. member for Mississauga South.

I will tell you, that is another thing members of the opposition are upset with. We have a great chairman of the finance committee, and they do not like him at all. It is too bad. He has done a marvellous job, and this country understands that he has done a marvellous job.

I might say that during the committee hearings we had some excellent representations from witnesses. They have provided us with suggestions for improvement. We will see those improvements in the amendments that are brought forward to make the GST operate better and more fairly in this country.

Governments have to make tough choices, tough decisions. We understand that they may not be popular with the people. But there comes a time when the government has to make a decision for the economic well-being of this country. That is what we have done.

I read with great interest this morning my media pundits saying that our caucus is falling apart, that our caucus is disintegrating because of the goods and services tax. There is nothing further from the truth. The Progressive Conservative caucus is solidly behind the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister on the goods and services tax.

You know what? I will tell you. The caucus members met regularly with the Minister of Finance, and also with the chairman of the finance committee, and made some very positive suggestions which improved the goods and services tax. Members of our caucus did that. They were very productive. They were very positive in their approach. They did not have this negativism that we get from the other side, which has absolutely no alternative. There have been no alternatives whatsoever from the Liberal party, or from the New Democratic Party that make any sense.

I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, and I want the media to understand this, as well as the Liberals and the New Democrats, the Progressive Conservative Party, the Progressive Conservative caucus is solidly behind the Minister of Finance and the government in this motion today.

We watch what is going on in those two parties, and their leadership convention. We see them fighting over one another all the time. They should be taking a look at