

forward to next Tuesday, when Jean Chrétien, surely newly elected in Beauséjour, will want to start letting Canadians know what his alternatives and propositions are. We wish it. We are anxious to see him do it.

But the point I wanted to make is that Senator Gigantès has failed to convince the press that he really had something to say. The only thing they remember is that he did not go to the toilet or that he might have gone at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. Even on that point, the press does not agree. Senator Gigantès, I ask you to take advantage of the 30 minutes you have left to tell us what is the position of the Liberal Party regarding the alternatives to the GST, the timetable, etc. I wish you good luck. I wish you will survive these ill-assorted and inconsistent remarks. He has tried to cover almost every aspect of life, from literature to military strategy, to taxation. He has said nothing that could let us know whether he is for or against the GST, to which extent and above all, the alternatives. Good luck, Senator Gigantès, that is all I can wish you this morning.

Senator Gigantès: That is very kind of you. I accept these wishes. I have not read the newspapers yet, but I suppose one of the reasons why they only mention that I did not pee for 17 hours and 45 minutes is that it really takes a miracle to be able to listen to some of your remarks and not pee.

● (1120)

[English]

He started it. I was not saying anything. He started it. He brought the issue up. As I told all of you yesterday, if you give me a shot, you will get one right back—and I am not sexist at all; whatever the sex on the other side, give me a shot and you will get one back in the mouth. I can take them. I love taking them. But I give them right back. I enjoy the fight; I really do.

I thought all this morning I was explaining an alternative, but I must summarize because Senator Simard wants me to give a Liberal Party position on the GST. We have two more years to go.

Senator Simard: An alternative, an official alternative.

Senator Gigantès: We have two more years to go between now and the election.

Senator Stanbury: Terrible years!

Senator Gigantès: Two terrible years. We do not know what the circumstances are going to be, and the degree of the catastrophe; nevertheless, I am prepared to give you an alternative, and I am prepared to bet good money that the main features of what I will propose will be in the Liberal Party policy platform for the election in Canada two years from now, if you have not destroyed the country between now and then.

Senator Stanbury: They have already destroyed it.

Senator Gigantès: Well, if they do not totally, finally destroy it, and if Quebec has not walked out in despair over the incompetence of the people opposite. That is an underlying factor. They seem to like Mr. Mulroney, but they see the place

[Senator Simard.]

going to pieces. They see terrible abuses of policy and a terrible lack of intelligence.

So what is the purpose of a tax reform? It should be fair. It should collect money. We should put an end to the deficit, if possible, and we should also reduce the debt as soon as possible as a percentage of the gross domestic product. We should therefore make the gross domestic product increase at a faster rate.

The first thing that I can tell you is that this goods and services tax will be wiped out by the Liberal Party when it comes to power. You want policy? I promise you this. It is unequivocal.

The next priority for the Liberal Party after it comes to power will be to move towards a full employment policy. Every unemployed person in this country costs the society exactly as much as that unemployed person received from his or her employer when he or she was working. When these people were working and receiving \$15,640 a year on average—these are the 1989 figures—they were producing \$15,640 worth of goods and services. That is what it means. You are paid for what you produce and that \$15,640 of goods and services is an addition to the gross domestic product—in other words, an addition to the tax base that does not now exist. What we are now doing is paying all these unemployed people the same amount of money they were paid when they were working, and we are paying them to do nothing.

So our first movement will be towards full employment. If you want to know exactly how that can be done, read my book. If you do not want to read it, I will read it for you on tape and give you the tape. Of course, you will say it is a bad book. You do not know. You have not looked at it. I will make an exception for you, Senator Simard. Authors do not like to give copies of their books free. Publishers do not like it when we give copies of our books free, but I will go to a bookstore and I will buy a copy of my book—at full price, so that my publisher does not mind—and I will give you the copy.

Senator Simard: Do you want to ruin my vacation, my Christmas holidays? Wait for January after the GST goes through, and perhaps we will think about it.

Senator Gigantès: So we will abolish the GST and we will institute a full employment policy. A full employment policy will give increases in revenue to the government sufficient to stop it being in a deficit position. Those are the two basic pillars of the Liberal economic policy in the next Liberal administration.

● (1130)

Hon. Paul David: Senator Gigantès, may I ask you what your scheme is for full employment. What is your policy? Do you mean that you will put everybody on construction at the expense of the government? Who will pay for that, and what is the scheme?

Senator Gigantès: You are an incredible lot. You tell us that we have no alternatives to offer, nothing to suggest. I take the trouble to put my vocal cords at risk and read to you in detail precisely how a full-employment policy would be implemented.