

Oral Questions

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: I would remind the hon. member that I asked him to put his question. I am going to have to move on if he does not.

Mr. Blaikie: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Deputy Prime Minister. If the government has admitted, as it has, through what we have come to know from this draft press release and ways and means motion, that the GST bill was flawed, would they not finally do the right thing with respect to the GST, admit there are many other things in it that have to be corrected, withdraw the bill and bring it back to the House so we can have another crack at it.

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): No, Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, if the government is willing to correct the things that the minister has indicated he wants to correct, why is it not willing to bring the tax back to the House of Commons so we can look at the inadequacy of the indexing, so we can look at the way it affects families, so that we can look at all the other injustices that this bill institutes, and do something about them?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, our documents pertaining to this tax and the bill itself were in front of this House since 1987 I think. If there were any constructive proposals to come from the other side of the House we would have found out by now.

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HARBOURFRONT CORPORATION

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-73 authorizes the Minister of Public Works to separate the development and program functions of Toronto's Harbourfront Corporation by dissolving the corporation and selling off its assets.

Will the minister tell us what economic factors prompted him to agree to a sales deal that will give three developers, Konvey, Rampart, and Huang and Danczky a \$36.4 million benefit, a sweetheart deal, thanks to public funds?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleague opposite to give me the source for those very unimaginative and I would say completely inaccurate figures. As he knows Darcy McKeough, a fine administrator, went over much of the plan of Duncan Allan, an outstanding Ontario civil servant, and we found that the Darcy McKeough proposal was very well accepted in Toronto.

• (1440)

The Toronto mayor, Mr. Eggleton was pleased with it. In fact, many of the media people there congratulated us in getting this unanimous agreement between so many levels of government for such a constructive project.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, clearly the minister is not up to par because a government-financed appraisal reveals the stench that surrounds the deal.

For example, Konvey gives up properties worth \$1.2 million in exchange for \$6.2 million in benefits. Rampart walks away from a \$10.6 million in return for \$23.1 million prize. Huang and Danczkey gives up properties worth \$6.1 million in return for a \$25 million reward.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. Volpe: Will the minister move to end this deal, or is he going to be content to let the stench of corruption taint the atmosphere of this deal?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works): If the hon. member has any serious concerns or problems with this particular proposal, I think he and his colleagues should sit down with some of the people in the Ontario administration, check with the mayor of Toronto, drop in and see Darcy McKeough and reflect upon the values of real estate in Toronto these days and maybe he will revise his estimates.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister. He claims that the Darcy McKeough proposals have been endorsed by the city of Toronto. In fact, on Monday they were rejected by a vote of 16 to one as being totally inadequate. Only the mayor voted in favour of them.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacKay: I never said that.