

Routine Proceedings

Mr. Rodriguez: I am glad the minister is here. He is the minister who promised that if we got free trade it would result in lower prices to consumers. That is the third thing it promised. There is no evidence that that is happening—none at all. In fact prices are going up and up.

Fourth, the latest blow to consumers is this government's headlong dash to implement the goods and services tax on January 1, 1991. There is no more regressive tax than a sales tax. That is what the member for Mississauga South said in a speech in 1980. He said there is a no more regressive tax. Why? Because it does not respect the ability of the consumer to pay. In this particular situation the government has said: "We are removing the manufacturers' sales tax of 13.5 per cent". Are the consumers being given any assurance that they are going to get the net benefit when the 13.5 per cent is removed? No sirree, not at all.

What are we going to get? The minister said; "We are going to give you a new version". This is the 1990 version of the Beryl Plumptre committee. Do you remember that committee which the Trudeau Liberal government set up to monitor prices during the wage and price control period?

We know that that watch-dog did not bite. That watch-dog could only whimper. Yet this government is going to set up a watch-dog that will have no power to bite. It will only be able to whimper at the removal of the manufacturers' sales tax.

Finally, the Standing Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations, in June, 1988, tabled a unanimous report with 33 recommendations on misleading advertising, all designed to protect consumers as they forage for food, services and goods in the marketplace. Not one of these recommendations has been put into effect—not one, and there are 33 of them which are absolutely unanimous.

The minister said the theme of his week is: "Team up for a stronger marketplace, consumers, business and government". I suggest that the theme should be: "Team up to get rid of the Mulroney government, consumers, small businesses and trade unions," providing we have any left by 1993.

[Translation]

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES READJUSTMENT ACT**MEASURE TO ENACT**

Mr. Charles DeBlois (Montmorency—Orléans) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-296, an Act to change the name of the electoral district of Montmorency—Orléans.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall the hon. member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. DeBlois: Madam Speaker, today I would like to introduce a Private Members' Bill aimed at changing the name of the electoral district of Montmorency—Orléans so that it more adequately reflects the riding's demographic profile and geography.

If my bill is passed, the riding will be known as Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans.

I may point out that nearly 70 per cent of the residents of my riding live in Beauport, the fourteenth largest town in Quebec. In a recent survey of my constituents, a substantial majority replied they agreed with the new designation.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When shall the bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

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[English]

PETITIONS**GOODS AND SERVICES TAX**

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, it is an honour and, indeed, a privilege to present petitions pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of a number of residents of the constituency of Kamloops.