

a year or a year and a half. I want to hear from the minister about getting acts together.

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has covered a lot of ground in a very little time. I quite see his point.

As far as financial institutions are concerned, I will not go into that. I am still committed to introducing such legislation. I must tell him that we have already moved in many areas, areas such as the securities area and so on and so forth. This is where we are way ahead of other countries. I would not say that all of the institutions are waiting and hanging on by their nails. That would be far too strong. I know that they are anxious to get our legislation, and they will get it. I hope to be able to table it shortly.

As far as the Canadian people are concerned, I, like the hon. gentlemen in this House, am frequently in touch with the population. That is why we are in politics. I meet them frequently. Obviously, in my capacity as Minister of State for Finance I deal with the GST all over Canada but particularly in Quebec. I have met dozens and dozens of groups which at the outset, after having listened to the messages that come from the other side of this House, have a very negative approach.

In any case, a tax is never popular. Tax reform is never very popular. Everybody sees the government putting its hand deeper and deeper into your pocket.

When you speak with them and calmly explain to them why you are doing it, my conclusion is that they understand very well. Of course it would take a long time to go around meeting small groups of 75, 100 or 200 people, so you need to use a better means of stating what you are going to do. Very often the opposition is based on false information.

I am confident that gradually, slowly, the over-all situation is changing. I will not say that it is a popular subject. I personally share the view that taxes are not necessarily a pleasant thing to discuss.

As far as getting our act together, we know what we would like to do ideally. I think we have taken very strong measures over the years, and we are taking one now. Nobody will suspect that we are doing this for electoral reasons. We are doing it because we are deeply

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convinced that it is good for the country. Nobody would claim that we would do it if we were convinced that it would, as members of the opposition say, throw our economy into a turmoil. How can we at the same time gouge everybody, make a lot of money and then throw the economy into a turmoil?

We are convinced that this is a very good way of proceeding. It is very good reform. It is good for the economy. It will create jobs. It is a modern way of arranging our affairs so that we can free the forces of our industry which are there waiting to prosper.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments are now terminated.

Mr. Riis: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will recognize the hon. member on a point of order after I announce the proceedings on the adjournment motion.

[*Translation*]

It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus)—VIA Rail; the hon. member for Ottawa South (Mr. Manley)—Social programs; the hon. member for London East (Mr. Fontana)—Proposed goods and services tax.

• (1620)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): On a point of order, the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to my hon. friend, the minister, who is I must say a very experienced politician and parliamentarian. He had some very interesting comments to make. I enjoyed his speech.

I know that we cannot refer to the absence of members in the House, but I would think that there would be more members of his own party interested in what he had to say. I was going to call quorum, but I think that since there is now just a bare quorum I will not do that.

On a second point of order, the minister referred on a number of occasions to documents from which he quoted. I wonder if he would be interested and prepared