

Government Orders

We took all of that into consideration and we said: "The Conservatives have not listened. We are in a terrible mess here." They would not listen. They did not care. We were going across the country. We were listening and we heard and we paid attention. My colleague from Sudbury and various other members of the committee sat down and said: "We have to put this together. We spent all this time listening. We will have to do it".

The New Democratic Party had done the same thing, had gone through the same process. Every now and then, like a sound from the depths, we would hear: "What is your alternative?". We would say that our alternative was to deal with tax reform in a meaningful way based on these fundamental principles that Conservatives and everybody else in the country, I am sure, agree on. The Conservatives had them set out in their documents dealing with their tax reform package. Unfortunately they had not met the test that they had set for themselves.

Then, as I say, thankfully I was able to read the briefs that were brought before the committee on that day. Through all kinds of machinations and tomfoolery that I would never get into, do not want to mention, and hope I never see again, we were unable to hear people who came in from my province of New Brunswick and from Sudbury.

Mr. Milliken: Why?

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The only explanation was that the Tories were mad because the NDP had acted up and filibustered when other witnesses were before the committee. The New Democratic Party is a nationally recognized party. Where is it in the polls now?

Mr. Milliken: They are slipping too.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): They are going down with the new leader.

Mr. Langdon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Here we were with people who were coming in to try to deal with serious measures and we just could not get to listen to them.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Essex—Windsor on a point of order.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to interrupt this fascinating, absolutely brilliant speech by the member

for Gloucester, but he has suggested that the New Democratic Party has been declining in the public opinion polls. I simply point out to him that the most recent polls in fact show us going up.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Gloucester has the floor on debate.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): I want to deal with the facts that would have been presented to the Standing Committee on Finance had we been able to hear these people when they travelled from all over the country to Ottawa to be heard.

I refer to the brief presented by the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. It is very important to make these points clear when you are talking about alternatives because the implication has always been that the New Democratic Party has alternatives. I would like you, Mr. Speaker, to listen to this very closely.

The New Brunswick Federation of Labour joins with the trade union movement across Canada in rejecting the GST and demanding a royal commission on taxation.

Mr. Epp: We've had 20 of them.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): The minister says that we have had 20. This is the NDP. The New Brunswick Federation of Labour asked that there be a royal commission. This is very interesting stuff.

Here is the New Democratic Party's presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs—

Mr. Langdon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Essex—Windsor on another point of order.

Mr. Langdon: I appreciate very much the effort on the part of the Liberal finance critic to put these points on the floor. I would simply ask, especially as he is a member of Parliament from New Brunswick, that he not insult the New Brunswick—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is debate. The hon. member for Gloucester has the floor.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote the Canadian Labour Congress and the brief that it presented.

Mr. Langdon: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.