

Government Orders

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Of course I am aware that the Standing Orders do not provide for suspensions in situations like the one we were just in. I am told that it is the first time that the business of the House has been suspended because of the alarm bell ringing. That said, I give the floor to the hon. member for Nickel Belt for at least one minute.

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted by the Tories putting the place on fire, the fact of the matter is that the minister who spoke before me was perfectly correct in his sense that Canadians do not want any more taxes. They want no further increase in taxes. In fact they want a lowering of taxes. I want to suggest to him that the attempts to force the governments of this country to harmonize with the GST would increase taxes to them.

• (1340)

For example, by harmonizing the GST with the provincial sales tax in the province of Saskatchewan, it is estimated that it would cost the people of Saskatchewan \$300 million a year more. Imagine what it would cost the people of Ontario if the GST were harmonized with the provincial sales tax. I would hazard a guess that it would be in the vicinity of \$1 billion. It will not lower the rate. It extends the tax to things that are not now taxed. It seems to me that is not fair to the people of Ontario.

We do not pay a provincial sales tax on haircuts. I know the minister does not have that problem, but we do not pay provincial sales tax on haircuts. If we were to harmonize the provincial sales tax with the GST, it would be extended to all those things that this horrendous, terrible GST is now applied to.

If the minister really wants to show a spirit of co-operation and keep the taxes down for the people of Ontario, why not collect the provincial sales tax at the border on those Ontarians who shop in the United States?

Mr. McDermid: On all items?

Mr. Rodriguez: On the items they would pay that tax on in Ontario, absolutely. It seems to me that is fairness. It would bring the tax down for the rest of the people in

Ontario if those people were to pay their fair share of the taxes.

Mr. McDermid: Ontario merchants do not want that.

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, earlier I allowed the hon. member for Nickel Belt to give us his wisdom and his thoughts. I was hoping for something different from the member for Nickel Belt and the NDP, but it was the same old broken record and when you listen to a broken record long enough you want to throw it out.

I just want to make a comment before getting into debate. I know the audience out there had the opportunity to listen to the member for Port Moody—Coquitlam. It is no wonder the Canadian public is at the point where it does not want to listen, watch or see public officials on an ongoing basis and the type of charade that took place in this House earlier.

I want to apologize on behalf of this government. We certainly do not believe in those types of tactics. We are trying to do our utmost in this House to ensure that we bring some sanity back to the House.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The member should withdraw his accusation of unparliamentary tactics. All I did was speak. That is what Parliament is about. All I did was represent people who are worried about what this government is doing. The member has no right to accuse me of unparliamentary tactics.

Mr. McDermid: That is no point of order.

Mr. Waddell: It is a point of order.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I think that hon. members on both sides of the House have expressed their opinions on the point at issue. It is not necessary to go further.

We resume debate with the hon. member for Timiskaming.

[English]

Mr. MacDougall: Mr. Speaker, I listened to the concerns of those in the NDP with regard to Bill C-60 today. I listened over the last number of months to their