

*Supply*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Before I recognize the Hon. Member for Prince-Albert, I will allow the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice to comment briefly.

**Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the hon. member for Trois-Rivières, and I tried, on the basis of what he said and what was said by the hon. member opposite, the hon. member for Hamilton East, who said that the Parliament of Canada had to reject the GST because 85 per cent of Canadians were against the tax— that is her reasoning, her way of seeing things. I would like to know whether the hon. member for Trois-Rivières agrees, because if we were to ask Canadian citizens tomorrow morning whether they are for income tax or if we polled Canadians on this issue, they would say no. If we asked Canadians: Are you in favour of provincial sales tax in Quebec, what would they answer? If we asked Canadians: are you in favour of a tax on gas, what would they say? The Liberals put a tax on gas, and they introduced quite a few tax increases.

Canadians didn't agree, but the Liberals had to run the country. They didn't do it the way they should have done, but they did it just the same. If you ask people who smoke whether they agree with the tax on cigarettes, of course people don't agree. So I would like to ask the hon. member for Trois-Rivières how else one can run a country with an annual budget of \$147 billion? How can one do that if one listens to the rhetoric of the hon. member for Hamilton East? Do we abolish all taxes and income taxes and leave Canadians without the wherewithal to govern themselves?

**Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, an excellent question as usual, from the hon. member for Saint-Maurice.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will agree that not a single member in this House, including yourself, with respect, likes income tax and taxes. There is not a single person here who likes taxes, and no one in this country does. However, although we do not like taxes and income tax, we like the services provided by the federal government, which the government, headed by the Conservatives, wants to keep giving to those who are in need in this country. That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is important to have the GST in order to create jobs and put Canada back at the same level internationally as all other countries. As for the hon. member for Hamilton East who said that

since 85 per cent of Canadians were against the GST, we had to be against it as well, then, according to her logic, should we abolish beds just because 85 per cent of the population dies in bed?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** There is one minute left for questions and comments. The hon. member for Prince-Albert—Churchill River will have 30 seconds and the hon. member for Trois-Rivières 30 seconds to answer.

[*English*]

**Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River):** Mr. Speaker, it is hardly surprising that 85 per cent of Canadians do not believe this government and would not vote for it if there was an election when the member says that Canadians should reduce their expenditures when they are losing their farms, their homes and their businesses.

I would like to ask the member these questions: Does he agree with his Minister of Finance that in fact there is no recession in this country? If he agrees with his Minister of Finance, at what point does he think a recession would be starting, how long does this have to keep on going, and if there is a recession, what kind of policy changes would he like to see?

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Trois-Rivières, very briefly.

**Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, no, there is no recession. Yes, there is an economic slow down. When is there a recession? When there are stupid policies like those we had in 1981, then, there is a recession. It is only in those circumstances that we have a recession.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments are now over. The hon. member for Ottawa South has the floor.

[*English*]

**Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate.

I must say I have listened to many speeches in this Chamber over the last year and a half or almost two years. Had I been able to be recognized on question and comment with respect to the previous speech, I think it is the first one on which I could truthfully say that it was so