

*Oral Questions*

the government prepared to promise that its bill to amend the GST will also abolish the GST on books?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** The hon. member said that Canadians will not know what taxes they will have to pay. I think they know perfectly well. In fact, they said as much in the polls. When we are talking about certain categories of people or businesses, that is another thing altogether. We have to upgrade the system we have, and that is what we are going to do. As for the tax on books, I may remind the hon. member that at the present time we have a federal sales tax imposed across the board, more or less. We are going to remove it, and we will also grant tax credits, so that people who might be penalized by this tax, people on low incomes, will have more money in their pockets than they did before.

Furthermore, by injecting \$9 billion into the economy, more people will work, they will have better salaries and they will be able to buy more books.

\* \* \*

[English]

## THE CONSTITUTION

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The issue being decided today is really based on trust. Canadians are asking themselves why should anybody in this country believe the Prime Minister's declaration this morning that he wants to establish a committee of the House of Commons and Senate to repair and to modernize the institutions of Canada when this afternoon his appointee in the Senate, the Speaker of the Senate, is going to cut off debate and ram through the GST?

Doesn't the Prime Minister understand that he who destroys and corrupts our institutions cannot heal those institutions?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. member would want to put his question with less use of provocative language.

**Mr. Tobin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I shall put my question to the Deputy Prime Minister in another way, out of respect for this Speaker in this Chamber.

My question to the Deputy Prime Minister is the following. How can Canadians take seriously government initiatives to repair, modernize and make relevant our institutions, when this same government has been in the process of destroying institutions in this country?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am rather surprised that the hon. member, who has had a distinguished parliamentary career, would engage in the kind of abusive and unparliamentary reflection that he has just cast on the Speaker in the other place.

I think that he may very well want to rethink that because quite frankly, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, surely what is at issue is that after eight months of consideration in the other place, it is time to make a decision. It is time to call the vote and it is the responsibility of the Speaker to maintain law and order and ensure that—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we will move on. The hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona.

\* \* \*

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona):** Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to hear the Liberals so full of sound and fury signifying nothing.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would ask the hon. member to put his question.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, the Liberals fought the GST the way David Peterson fought the free trade agreement, by going to Japan. That is the way the Liberal Senators, who had opportunities to defeat the GST time and time again but did not take those opportunities.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.