

*Government Orders*

easier for this government to perpetrate another sin on a long record of sins against the Canadian people.

**Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague for a very fine speech and a most astute analysis of the situation in which the country finds itself.

I know that time is limited and one does not always hit every subject one might like. Something I would have liked to have heard the hon. member speak about is the matter of the killing of some of the committees, the Economic Council of Canada in the last budget, and I know something that was very near and dear to his heart and also right in line with education, and that is the Science Council of Canada.

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, actually I understand the death of the Science Council. The Science Council was like a rabid dog biting at the ankles of this government and it had to be killed. The Science Council was an institution that had the capacity, the wherewithal, the knowledge and the research capacity to be objectively critical of this government and non-partisanly critical of this government and it was critical of this government.

As you know, the Science Council was about to do a number of studies. It would have demonstrated the inadequacy of this government's commitment to science, to training and to education.

The Economic Council did not criticize the government too much, but the government got the notion that it might and so it had to be killed too.

Also there is the Race Relations Foundation. That is the most peculiar one of all because it was killed along with the Court Challenges Program. This was done at a time when many people in this country are increasingly concerned about the rise of xenophobia and racism among those people who are looking for scapegoats that can be blamed for the actions of this government as they fear for their very livelihoods, their homes, their jobs and their capacity to raise their families.

• (1650)

One does not have to be a deeply suspicious person, but when I find out that representatives of this Conservative government that killed the Race Relations Institute, that killed the Court Challenges Program was also

the same government, the same party that refused in the constitutional report to support a commitment to equality for racial and ethnic minorities and with the collusion of the Liberals have seen that one-third of the population is not even included in a constitutional round that was supposed to be a people's round. Oh yes, there are some dear things in the budget that have been sacrificed.

With respect to the Science Council and the Economic Council and the foundation, if you add up that long list of cutbacks of various institutions that this government severed from the public area, it all adds up to \$23 million. It spent that much sending people all across this country to speak to 30 or 40 people about this prosperity agenda that has been the subject of so much appropriate ridicule.

**Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, this particular bill also has a section in it which deals with taxation matters. They are apparently designed to facilitate the collection of taxes by both federal and provincial governments.

I would like to ask the hon. member if he believes that it contains also certain elements that would facilitate the harmonization of the GST and the provincial sales tax? In view of the fact that many of these particular points were discussed during the meeting that was held with the provincial premiers, would he be aware whether Mr. Rae is deciding on whether to harmonize the GST with the PST in Ontario?

**Mr. McCurdy:** Mr. Speaker, you will know that I did address the issue. I guess the member's question is: will the Premier of Ontario be forced to succumb to blackmail? It really comes down to something that simple. It is a question of whether it will be possible to negotiate a reasonable arrangement with the federal government for the collection of two different taxes, the GST and the PST, the provincial sales tax, without being forced into harmonization.

That question is something like: "If I am shot, will I fall down"? Specifically, in Mr. Rae's shoes I do not stand. But I hope that if they shoot him with the GST he will not fall down.

**Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the former speakers as we discuss the equalization program. I must confess that from the opposition benches, I guess