

according to the polls—because they apparently believe in polls—their future leader from Quebec said it was horrible that Winnipeg did not get the F-18 maintenance contract. What will he tell Quebecers in his last mandate?

It is easy enough to tell. I am only trying to show that if you spit in the air, it will soon hit you in the face. I can not wait to hear what he will have to say in Quebec about the F-18 maintenance contract. I am also anxious to see the New Democrats go to Quebec with their inconsistent position regarding Meech Lake, because our consistent position in the debate on the GST and the budget is defensible. I told them: “Do not bother asking people if they are for or against taxes. They are against. Do not ask a government if it would rather risk its neck by proposing nothing. It will not like that.”

Two budgets ago, when we had the same grocery list as our colleagues opposite, I went to buy a pack of cigarettes in Valleyfield—maybe it is not a good example to use—

Mr. Gauthier: Smoking is bad for your health!

Mr. Hudon: Smoking is indeed very bad for your health. A woman came up to me and said: “What a bunch of smart alecs you Conservatives are, raising taxes on cigarettes”.

Mr. Gauthier: And she was right.

Mr. Hudon: I told her: “Yes, you’re right. We are as unoriginal as our predecessors because we came up more or less with the same grocery list: gasoline, cigarettes and booze”. And I added: “But the tax on cigarettes is the best you can dream of: when you don’t want to pay it, you just don’t smoke”!

We failed to explain clearly that the GST is a consumption tax. It stands to reason that low-income people consume less and spend less. Madam Speaker, the less we spend the lower the tax we pay. Members on the other side fail to point out that households earning \$30,000 or less will be entitled to refunds because we want to help people whose family income falls within that range. The tax system stems from a cultural and

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historical evolution which dates back to a good many years. Madam Speaker, do you know why the manufacturer’s tax came into being 75 years ago? At the time it was one way to tax rich people because all the others made whatever they needed for themselves. The idea was to tax the rich. Someone asked: What do rich people do with their money? They buy manufactured goods. So, that is what we will tax. If I were prime minister of a Moslem country I would tax pigs and European clothing because they are banned by religion.

A government does the same thing. At the time they wanted to tax rich people and manufactured goods, but what do rich people do with their money these days, Madam Speaker? They do not buy more goods, they use services.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It being 6.45 p.m., pursuant to the order made Thursday, March 29, 1990 according to Standing Order 78, it is my duty to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the third reading of the Bill presently before the House.

[*English*]

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour of the motion will please say ye.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion, the yeas have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion, which was agreed to on the following division: