

Business of the House

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan and Yukon know about it and they are complaining about the imposition of this tax.

We on this side of course are opposed to the GST and would scrap it. But the government has at least always admitted that it would examine the concerns about the effectiveness and the administration of the tax.

I wonder if, in response to the minister's question, he might go on to commit himself to at least looking at the implications of this tax and perhaps consider scrapping it.

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is a little confused. The short answer to his specific question is no.

The answer on the water is also no because we are not taxing water. What the hon. member is referring to is the delivery of water, and he should know that individual—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: I know hon. members would want to allow the minister to give his response to the question. The hon. minister.

• (1500)

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, if they would only listen, I am trying to explain as best I can. I would be very happy to offer them a briefing by officials to show them in detail specifically how this is being dealt with from an administrative standpoint, because those companies that deliver water can opt to operate under the same conditions as municipalities which are exempt or get a rebate on the GST.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean. Just one question, please.

* * *

REFERENDUM ON THE FUTURE OF QUEBEC

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs.

Today's *Le Soleil* reported an incredible statement by Claude Beauchamp, president of the *Regroupement Éco-*

nomie et Constitution, who objected to a referendum on the future of Quebec, and I quote: "The risk is far too great that voters would reject an agreement. A referendum is a complex instrument. A referendum entails a risk, and the risk is that it would be defeated".

This federal spokesman from Quebec seems to be afraid Quebecers will speak out. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister to dissociate himself from these undemocratic remarks and to state once and for all that the future of Quebec will not be decided on by politicians behind closed doors, but by the people of Quebec.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member could arrange to get in touch directly with Mr. Beauchamp. I am here to answer questions about the Canadian government's policies. Or else, if he does not want to speak to Mr. Beauchamp directly, perhaps he could write a book and ask Mr. Beauchamp to read it.

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader.

Would he indicate to the House the business we will be having for tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday, and the remaining parts of next week? Would he also indicate whether or not there would be some degree of co-operation on his part, as exhibited by his parliamentary secretary earlier this day, in perhaps having a special debate with regard to the whole supply management system in Canada which is presently under negotiation under the provisions of GATT?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, in response to the business question, today I would hope we would complete third reading of Bill C-32 respecting the Canada Assistance Plan and, if completed, we would call for third reading Bill C-35, the Miscellaneous Statutes Act.