

Trudeau approach. Trudeau had a running battle with the provincial governments all of the time he was Prime Minister. When this government took office there was going to be a new era of co-operative federalism. That was the key to the relationships between the federal and provincial governments. Things would be smoother. They would work more in harmony and co-operation. Then the government decided to bring in the GST.

The minister who spoke before me said people were absolutely opposed to any new taxes. We in this party opposed a previous bill, Bill C-22, which was to bring in a payroll tax on employers to pay for a wage protection fund in the bankruptcy act. This government brought it in and we have been fighting over it ever since.

We agree there is only one taxpayer and he is at his limit. Why is the government pushing harmonization, which is going to cost taxpayers more money? Why has this government denied the Government of Ontario anywhere from \$300 million to \$400 million a year in provincial revenues by not collecting the provincial sales tax from all those who shop across the border in Ontario? Why has it been using that as a blackmail tactic to get the Ontario government to harmonize?

I have spoken to a lot of constituents who shop in Ontario and do not think it is fair the federal government refuses to collect the provincial sales tax at the border when it has all the mechanisms at the border to do it.

Residents of Ontario come back across the border at Niagara Falls or Fort Erie and declare goods at the border. The federal government collects the federal sales tax and any duty on the goods, but not the provincial sales tax. Is this the sense of co-operation?

The NDP Ontario government opposed the GST in its campaign. We on this side opposed the GST federally. Provincial New Democrats opposed it in the election and became the government. Since then this government has been blackmailing them to integrate the GST into the sales tax program.

The government talks about fairness, so let us talk about fairness. The retailers are collecting the GST right now and they are not paid anything to be federal tax collectors. They received an amount of money to help

them initiate the GST and pay for a new cash register or whatever other paraphernalia they needed. But the government does not pay the retailer to do all that book work to collect the GST for it. That is not fair.

The government is now attempting to muscle the Ontario government and all the other provincial governments into harmonizing the GST with their provincial sales taxes. Can you imagine, right now in the province of Ontario, we do not pay a provincial sales tax on haircuts.

I want the government to know, this is what happens when you have the Tories on the run. This is their attempt to shut up the opposition on this very important issue. I want the people watching to know that the Tories have turned up the heat and now we have the fire brigade outside. Tories, I know you would sink to a lot of things, but I never thought you would get this low.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Fee):** The hon. member on a point of order.

• (1320)

**Mr. Angus:** Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate if the House were to suspend to the call of the Chair.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Fee):** In view of the alarm it is a good idea. To the hon. member for Nickel Belt, I have noted your time on the clock and we will reconvene when the alarm stops.

This House stands suspended until the alarm stops.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 1.25 p.m.

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#### SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 1.37 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member for Nickel Belt has one minute left.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is very rare that we have this kind of disruption in the middle of a speech. I would ask you to be generous in your interpretation of the one-minute period that my colleague has left. He was making some very important points when the fire alarm interrupted him.