

and as a person—when one has to choose between strong personal principles and loyalty to one's own people.

As a French-speaking Quebecer, I know that the collective well-being must often come first. It is in that heartbreaking situation that I am today. That is why I stood up to share my thoughts with you. They are nothing compared to the general outcry against the application of that tax to our books. As much as Senator Fairbairn and Senator Hébert, I am worried about the future, but I am convinced that a tax can be amended once passed.

[English]

I would like to remind you that when we adopted Bill 101 in Quebec, it was a terrible fight. My colleague, Senator Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, put up that fight for four months. But a few years later, because of the protestations and accusations, because of the cries for justice of so many Quebecers, that tax—

[Translation]

I don't know how to say it in English, my apologies to the interpreters; this tax was relieved of all its irritants. I very strongly believe that the tax must be relieved of its irritants, as far as books are concerned.

As a woman and a writer, I believe that we must change this element of the GST, and I beg the pardon of my colleagues who disagree with me on this. However, my loyalty to the Prime Minister of Canada remains unchanged, and that is why I will vote against your amendment.

● (1730)

[English]

Hon. John B. Stewart: Will the honourable senator deal with a question, please?

Senator Chaput-Rolland: Honourable senators, I have said everything that I have to say. I have said it all.

Senator Stewart: I was just going to point out that there appears to be a contradiction between the honourable senator's position and that of Senator Poitras.

Senator Chaput-Rolland: I have said, senator, that my position may not be the same as that of my colleagues, but it is mine. In this institution we all have our freedom, and I have mine.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Senator Hébert: Honourable senators, I wish to direct a question to Senator Chaput-Rolland.

Senator Simard: She said that she had said everything she wanted to say.

Senator Hébert: I thought I heard you say at the end of your speech that you were going to vote against this amendment, and throughout your speech, you said that you were against the tax.

Senator Chaput-Rolland: Honourable senators, I am afraid I expressed myself very badly. I stated my position as an author by saying that I was afraid of this tax, but I wished very strongly that the Prime Minister of Canada would fulfill his promise to amend or transform it, and that, out of loyalty for him, I would vote in favour of this tax because, generally speaking, Canada needs it.

I have now said everything I had to say and I certainly cannot be blamed if you do not understand me.

Hon. Claude Castonguay: Honourable senators, had Senator Hébert been here when Senator Chaput-Rolland had the floor he might have understood.

Senator Hébert: Perhaps I understood better than you think, but if you want the floor I will listen.

Senator Castonguay: You missed most of the remarks of Senator Chaput-Rolland. No wonder you cannot understand.

Senator Hébert: She repeated something that was very clear at the end. Indeed I did miss the beginning of her remarks, you are right. But when she summed up at the end she said: As a Quebec author I fear that tax and I hope the Prime Minister decides to change it. On the other hand, because I belong to the Conservative Party I have to vote on the side of my Prime Minister. That is what I understood. I see a contradiction between what she thinks of the tax and her partisan approach which will dictate how she votes.

Senator Simard: Partisanship is something you would know.

Senator Hébert: When it coincides with my conscience it does not bother me. This is not a clear-cut case to me.

[English]

MOTION IN AMENDMENT—DECISION DEFERRED

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, it was moved by Senator MacEachen, and seconded by Senator Frith:

That Bill C-62 be not now read the third time but that the Schedule of the Bill be amended, on page 342, to make provision for reading material by adding to Schedule VI, and numbering accordingly, a new heading and Part as follows: