

Government Orders

malt—Juan de Fuca knows it is only a fleeting fancy. It is not the kind of thing the NDP enjoys for very long.

Mr. Gardiner: It did well in Chambly.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): I just heard someone say that it did well in Chambly. I cannot wait for the new member of the New Democratic Party to come into the House. What is going to happen—and most people are speculating on it now—is that we will have another leadership campaign in the NDP in 18 months. That is something to look forward to. It will be a lot more entertaining than the last one.

Ms. Hunter: We are very pleased with the leader we have, just like the Liberal Party.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Going back to the question put by the hon. member, one of the reasons we are not prepared to stall the legislation on the registered retirement savings plan is that Liberals support registered retirement savings plans. I want to make that very clear. I am very proud to support registered retirement savings plans.

Ms. Hunter: Especially if they benefit the rich.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): We are suggesting that there are some problems with this legislation, and we want to deal with it in committee where we can move amendments and make suggestions. The NDP obviously does not like registered retirement savings plans.

That is its their problem. If they are against people being able to save for their old age, that is up to them.

Ms. Hunter: We didn't say that.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): If they are opposed to RRSPs, they should say that. What we are saying is that we support registered retirement savings plans.

Ms. Hunter: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member should speak for his own party rather than our party. I think we can speak very well for ourselves.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): With respect to the RRSPs we want to go on record as supporting RRSPs. We want to make sure they are fair and equitable, and we want to make sure we bring forward constructive amendments in committee.

With respect to the GST I want to say that one of the things we will never do in committee or in this House is

send surrogates to do the dirty work. That is what has been happening in the finance committee. The member of the finance committee who is the supposed finance critic for the New Democratic Party has not been part of it. The members for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca and Nickel Belt have shown up in the finance committee to play their silly games, which they are very good at.

I respect my hon. colleague from Saskatchewan who is the finance critic and my hon. colleague who was a very strong contender in the leadership campaign for the NDP. They appear on a regular basis when we are doing business in the finance committee. They are two gentlemen who know how to present their party's point of view and do it appropriately, but what we have been exposed to is the absolute stupidity of a spectacle of two members, one of whom had never been to the finance committee before, coming in and playing silly games.

If members of the NDP are interested in playing silly games with registered retirement savings plans, that is up to them. If they do not want people to speak in the finance committee and be able to present testimony, that is up to them.

One thing for sure is that we will oppose the goods and services tax as we have since last August while the NDP was going back and forth across the country trying to find a leader. The alternative, and I will close on this, is to make sure that we do not fall into the government's trap. What Canadians are saying is no to the GST, not yes to something else still unheard of. Better the devil you know, which is the existing federal sales tax.

• (1800)

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, because if the New Democrats want to scrap both the federal sales tax and the GST, they would put another \$18 billion onto the deficit. They probably do not know that that is what would be the result, but that is what they would be suggesting.

What over 600,000 Canadians who signed petitions that we have presented to the Clerk of this House have said, is, "no", to the GST. They have not said that they would like to take up the NDP's alternative because the NDP's alternative is unthinkable.