

Government Orders

the Standing Committee on Finance; and the amendment of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p.7569).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): We will now enter into questions and comments to the hon. member for Yorkton—Melville.

On a point of order, the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, now that the government has once again given notice that it plans to introduce a motion of closure for the next day, I want to simply indicate that at that time I will plan to argue the fact that moving closure at this point is not only irresponsible but unconstitutional.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Are there questions or comments? The hon. member for Athabasca.

Mr. Shields: Mr. Speaker, I listened with considerable interest to my friend for Yorkton—Melville when he was making his presentation to this House before he sought to adjourn the House.

He started off by saying that they were attempting to kill the bill and axe the tax and that they would do anything to see that the bill does not go through the House.

He then went on to lay out the brochures and called the brochures advertising and propaganda.

I would ask the hon. member this. If the information in the brochures is incorrect, would he please point out to this House and to all hon. members where the information is incorrect? He called it propaganda.

How can it be propaganda when people are seeking information right across this country about the goods and services tax? Does he not feel that we have a responsibility to get this information out to our constituents as quickly as possible so that they understand the implications of the goods and services tax and how it will affect them? Is it not the duty of every member in this House to inform his constituents and to inform the country?

I would ask the hon. member if he could show the members of this House, if that information is incorrect, where it is incorrect? I do not have a closed mind. I would really like to know how that hon. member can

point out in the brochures what is wrong with the information that we are giving.

Obviously the New Democratic Party, the party of which the member for Yorkton—Melville is a member, has decided that it is not even going to discuss the goods and services tax. Members of that party have closed their minds to it. That is the ultimate autocratic position. It is the classic example of a party which knows that it will never, ever form a government in this country. It will never be in power and can never expect to be in power. Thus it can be totally irresponsible.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this bill since August. I was on the committee that travelled this country for several weeks, including when we went into the province of Alberta. We have discussed the bill.

The specific answer to the question about propaganda is that if he checks the most recent brochure he will see one of the headings is "Competitive Advantage". Under that heading it is argued that business in this country will have a competitive advantage.

I suggest that in many cases that is not true at all. We heard in our committee from representatives of many small business people who said they will have a competitive disadvantage. I refer specifically to the tourist industry, the fast food industry, the clothing industry and the footwear industry. All these industries have warned us that they will not have a competitive advantage but very much a disadvantage.

As a matter of fact, when it comes to tourism and restaurants those two industries are among the two most price-sensitive industries and businesses in this country. An increase in price, or a perceived increase in price—whatever it may be, we can argue that point—will be enough, in their opinion, to drive people away. We had representatives of the tourist industry before us in the Railway Committee Room before Christmas who made that very point in a very clear and effective way about how they think it would affect their industry.

• (1610)

I would suggest with great respect to my friend for Athabasca that it is propaganda when you have something that is misleading in a document. This does not give tourism, for example, a competitive advantage. That