than that, they contain opinion, the government's opinion that this tax is a great thing for people.

The government is using the booklets, not as an advertisement procedure for setting the facts before the people of Canada but for a self-serving justification for the introduction of Bill C-62 in this House. It is an improper use of public funds. It is an improper use of the government's advertising capacity and it constitutes a breach of the privileges of this House because hon. members on this side of the House are not given the opportunity to answer the nonsense published in these books.

I have not seen one of the books. They have not been distributed to us yet that I am aware of, but I understand—now the chief government whip is waving a copy.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I could assist the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands. I have seen one of the books. I would not want him to feel that he could not continue his argument just because he has not seen one.

Mr. Milliken: Your Honour, I do not feel that way at all because I read the press release that dealt with the issue of the books and I could tell from the press release that there was more to those books than met the eye.

What is in those books is opinion. The government has put forward its opinions and its weak justification for this tax, and I suggest that that is an improper use of funds. It is an abuse of the privileges of this House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kamloops has put forward a point of privilege, not a point of order, and it refers to certain publications which are now in the public domain, as the hon. member for Kamloops said, by direct mailing referring to the legislation which is in front of the House and its consequences.

In view of the fact that the Chair was required to make a ruling on this matter some months ago, I will review very carefully the argument made by the hon. member for Kamloops, the response by the Minister of Justice and other members.

I want to assure members that I have the point and there is no particular necessity to engage in any further argument. The hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan seeks the floor and given his stature and experience in the House I will, of course, hear him briefly.

• (1120)

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I want to be very brief and to add to the argument of my colleague.

It should be pointed out that at the time when you made your initial ruling last fall, the information that had been disseminated talked about a 9 per cent goods and services tax. As we know, the legislation before us is for a 7 per cent tax, clearly an indication that things can change and that factual information may vary from time to time. I would ask Your Honour to take that into consideration.

Just as an aside, you might note that the amount being spent for the small business mail-out, $1.3 million, is almost identical to the amount to be cut from members' householders through the cut-backs by the government of funding to the House.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member. The hon. member for Mackenzie is rising. He may have something to add. I will hear him briefly.

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Very briefly, Mr. Speaker.

I note in the government House leader's remarks that he says that the purpose of the 20-page document is to advise taxpayers, and small business people in particular, how to implement the tax. I think that this comes to the very root and nub of the argument that has been presented by my friend from Kamloops. It assumes that this House will make no amendments to the proposed tax, it assumes that Parliament has no role to play in tax legislation, something that is supposed to have been the role of Parliament since, at least, 1215.

I think this is very much a contempt of Parliament. I think what we have here is advocacy by the Conservative Party. It is not the law of the land and until it becomes the law of the land, the government cannot legitimately tell people how to carry out a tax that still is not even a tax.

Mr. Speaker: I want to thank the hon. member for Kamloops for raising the matter, and other members for