

# GST - From Baby Clothes To Coffins

# Joke

by Alia Ali OTTAWA (CUP)  
- Almost 1000 people gathered on Parliament Hill Monday to protest the federal government's proposed Goods and Services Tax.

The "axe-the-tax" rally attracted angry protestors, who chanted slogans and listened to an array of speakers encouraging them to form a national coalition to get rid of the tax, and then Brian Mulroney and Michael Wilson.

The proposed nine per cent federal tax, to replace the existing 13.5 per cent manufacturer's sales tax in the new year, will cover everything from baby clothes to coffins.

Representatives from the Liberal and New Democratic parties promised to fight the proposed tax. Lorne Nystrom, NDP finance critic, said his party is "launching a national campaign to scrap the tax."

Various members of Parliament and businessmen said the GST will jack up prices, inflation, interest and unemployment rates.

Students will also see an overall rise in such education costs as tuition, textbooks, and transportation, said Dave Pimm, a part-time political science student, and member of the Young Liberals at Carleton.

He said he wondered whether the student aid programs will be increased to compensate for the tax.

"The government hasn't said so," he explained. "They're going to shut students out of school."

Calling the GST "an assault on Canadians," Mac Harb, Liberal MP for Ottawa Centre, encouraged Canadians across the country to "say yes to a good investment in the future of Canada, but no to a tax that will rob Canadians of their dignity."

Reverend Dale Soble of the First Baptist Church in Ottawa said the GST is a "moral issue" as well. Soble said the tax will "promote selfishness, alienation, human fear and hardship."

The rally was preceded by an entourage of approximately 150 taxis which were forbidden to drive by the Centre Block by RCMP officers. The drivers are worried that the proposed tax will increase their operating costs, drastically reducing their business.

"This will cause a decrease in the taxi drivers' income. The real effect of the tax however, will be to put me and those I represent on the unemployment line," explained Mohammad Alsadi, Pres-

ident of the local union representing Ontario's taxi drivers.

It took about 30 minutes of negotiations between officers, Alsadi, and the House of Commons Sergeant-at-Arms Gaston Cloutier before police allowed 30 cabs to drive by Centre Block.

Ron Melcher, of the Social

Planning Council of Canada, emphasized that the new tax would make Canadians the most taxed people in the Western Hemisphere.

"It's time for the government to realize Canadians simply can't take it anymore. Enough is enough."

What's long and hard and sinks into lots of strange things on weekends?

Buckwheat Hartinger's new front tooth

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