

# Make corporations pay — protestors

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stead of just carrying placards and marching up and down, he said.

"They're having a deficit barbecue. They want to support the Tory fund and we want to support a food fund." (All the proceeds from the "Lyn Brian" burgers sold at the protest went to the Love in Christ Food Bank.)

Mr. Hope, like many others at the protest, predicted the GST will spell the end of the Tory government.

Len Harrison, a Campbellville resident and the political education director of the Canadian Auto Workers union says the government's decision to lower the GST to seven per cent is "just a selling point - a con job."

"If the corporations would pay their taxes we wouldn't have the GST."

He lashed out at Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner. "He's a turncoat. Garth was crusading against all these taxes before (he was elected)."

Mr. Harrison pointed to the various groups present at the protest - the steelworkers union, the Coalition for Social Justice, retired workers and the Brampton Labor Congress (which takes in Georgetown) - as proof positive that labor is united against the GST.

As a handful of Halton Regional

Police kept watch from the fringes of the demonstration, Bob Nickerson, secretary-treasurer of the CAW, told the crowd there will be similar demonstrations wherever Michael Wilson or Brian Mulroney appears in public.

He called on the senate to block the GST.

And he questioned the use of the faltering Meech Lake accord as an excuse for Thursday's rise in the interest rates. "Every time we turn around somebody's got another excuse to take money out of our pockets," he said.

"We want a fair tax system in place. We can't have corporations going around in this country having tax write-off after tax write-off."

John Doherty, president of CAW Local 1421 at Smith and Stone in Georgetown, said the protests will "keep the fight going against the GST."

He said voters won't forget the emotional debate over the GST once they go to the polls in the next federal election.

Retired workers Gerald and Bea Beneteau from Brampton showed up in Georgetown to carry signs and sing anti-GST songs. "We don't like the GST. That's for sure," the couple said. "We get a \$3 raise in pensions and they take \$5 back."

# Wilson defends GST, Meech

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businessman," Mr. Smith said in an interview following the barbecue.

Mr. Wilson said during his speech the GST will improve the cash flow of small businessmen which will offset increased administrative costs to introduce the tax.

He acknowledged businessmen will have to hire additional staff to implement the GST when it first takes effect, but after that the tax will be easier to administer than

the current sales tax system.

The finance minister also went on to re-emphasize the government's selling point that savings incurred by the manufacturer because of the GST will be passed on to the consumer in lower prices. He pointed to the government's consumer and corporate affairs committee currently holding hearings to get guarantees from companies that they will pass along any savings.

The government has been criticized that there are no penalties to discourage companies

from absorbing the extra money. But Mr. Wilson argued once companies say publicly they will pass on the savings, they can't afford to do otherwise. "Companies will want to avoid a black eye more than the little profit they'll get."

Halton-Peel MP Garth Turner, who is the committee chairman, said before Mr. Wilson's speech every company, including some of the major car dealerships and retailers, that has appeared at the hearing has agreed to cooperate with the government.

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by Laurie Burns  
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  - 2) Cigarette smoking.
  - 3) High blood pressure.
  - 4) Low level of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol.
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  - 6) History of stroke or blockage of blood vessels in other body parts.
  - 7) Obesity.
  - 8) High fat diet.

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