

Borrowing Authority Act

cards for the next taxation year and every time she travelled she would use the credit cards in her own name to keep track of what expenditure was made on her behalf in travelling. Because she was a handicapped person she should qualify for a rebate on the excise tax. She submitted the claim and the federal government approved it. They granted her \$160, I believe the figure was.

In the last taxation year she applied again for the rebate and the answer came back saying she did not qualify for the rebate because, although she made the purchases in her name, it was her husband's income or her family income that paid for it; she had no income to pay for that petroleum, or to pay for that gasoline, so she could not claim the excise tax. They did not only refuse, but they wanted to collect the money which they had paid to her one year before that. That is unfair.

● (2050)

What they are saying is "Pay back money when you don't have an income". That is what they told her in one case, that she did not qualify because she did not have an income. Now they want her to pay back money on an income which she does not have. This government must decide whether it wants to use individual income or family income, but it should not use whichever alternative suits its needs. I think that is unfair.

Such action tends to encourage people to look for ways to cheat a system which is unjust and treats people unfairly. I do not mean to be critical, but we should have some remedy to overcome this erosion of the tax base. It is not fair that 10 per cent of the population has 60 per cent or more of the wealth in this country. Of the other 90 per cent, some of them have nothing. That is unfortunate for many Canadians, particularly those in the 90 per cent portion. The other 10 per cent does not care too much. However, they must influence the fiscal policy or taxation policies of this government.

We must overcome this problem of each year having to approve supplementary borrowing power so that the government can pay its debts or honour the commitments it made. We must achieve full employment within this country, or at least stop the high rate of unemployment which we are so rapidly achieving through the regressive actions of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray). I am thinking particularly of the people in the automobile industry in places like Windsor and Oshawa where these people, for two or three generations, have been dependent upon the automotive industry. Now their jobs are being taken away from them. These people do not know where to turn, and the federal government is not being very responsive to their situation.

There are many small businesses and medium-size companies which have been affected by the high interest rates or the non-action pattern of this federal government in terms of interest rates. We must look at ways to achieve full employment through an industrial strategy. I would like the federal government to lay out at some point their industrial strategy so that we can make some long-term economic plans and develop an economic policy which will gain full employment for all Canadians. As I mentioned earlier, there must be some equity

in the taxation system. It is unfortunate that a handicapped person is cheated by this government. I have asked the minister for leniency in this case and other cases, such as the case I cited of the woman in North Battleford.

We must also gain effective control of our resources. We have talked in this House about energy self-sufficiency, but I do not know how we are going to attain that goal. The New Democratic Party has a policy which we have laid out before, but I will not go into that now. Certainly the policies of this government do not attain energy self-sufficiency for Canada.

It is unfortunate that there are other inequities within our taxation system. It is something which I have mentioned in this House before and which I will mention again, because it ties in so closely to overcoming the large deficit which we have in this country. I will say again, as I said before, that Saskatchewan has to pay an export tax every time it sends a barrel of heavy crude across its borders. The reason we export our heavy crude is because there is no petroleum upgrading station in Saskatchewan to upgrade this heavy crude to a state where it can be used.

However, this is a project on which the Saskatchewan government has been working in conjunction with Petro-Canada and Husky Oil, a wholly-owned Canadian company, but it has not reached the stage of operation yet. When that barrel of heavy crude oil crosses the Saskatchewan border, there is an export tax. Of every barrel of heavy crude which crosses Saskatchewan borders, \$22 goes to the federal government, \$6 goes to the provincial government and something over \$6 goes to the oil company. That is unfair to the province of Saskatchewan, that such a disproportionate share should go to the federal government.

Actually what is being exported is not heavy crude, it is energy. There is no export tax on other forms of energy which are exported out of Canada. When Alberta and British Columbia export trillions of cubic feet of natural gas to the United States, they are not charged one cent in export tax. That is discrimination against Saskatchewan. When Ontario and Quebec, I imagine, export power, energy which is generated by nuclear stations or by hydro dams, they are not charged one cent in export tax. Certainly the money which is raised from that export tax goes to subsidize the cost of energy needs in eastern Canada.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Anguish: I would appreciate it very much if the members to the right, if they do not know what they are talking about, would please keep quiet until I am finished. They will have a chance to speak once I am finished. We must also take a look at processing our raw resources at home.

Getting back to the Conservatives, I would like to say that the Liberals are not only to blame. The Conservatives are much more to blame with their terrible policies with which they tried to destroy this country. The people to my extreme right in this House have no room to talk, no room whatsoever. They wanted to charge Canadian people for their oil at the