

Income Tax

putting it where it belongs—in the hands of the people. Indeed the premier of Alberta ought to take a page out of the book of the premier of British Columbia.

An hon. Member: That is a book of jokes.

Mr. Rodriguez: The biggest jokers are those who think that, by giving concessions to multinational corporations to come into this country, they are doing a favour to the Canadian people. They can leave. The resources can stay. They can be developed when we have the money. Our resources are being depleted. Once removed from the ground, they cannot be put back.

This taxation bill continues the time honoured process developed by the Liberal party and copied by the Tories when they are in power which, thank heavens, is very seldom. Unless the government takes the steps advocated by my party, we will continue to have a sell-out and rip-off with regard to our resources.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, in talking about Bill C-49 one thing is obvious. That is that the question we are talking about at this point is clearly singular, not in terms of the bill itself but in terms of the question that is before the House at this moment.

What is before the House is really an issue of government growth and government spending. It is a case of a growing government that is becoming a cancer to the Canadian society, a cancer that is so big that the Canadian populace simply cannot keep pace with it.

Look at what has been happening in recent years to the federal government. The federal government is taxing the Canadian people at a rate of over \$4 million an hour. While one might ask how does that interpolate into the government's attitude and the government's reflection toward people? When you see a government with the kind of growth this government has had through the last decade, it means the government has taken the attitude that it knows what is best for people. It is the kind of government that puts people into the position of subjects rather than citizens, a government that shows a lack of trust in people.

In my remarks this evening I want to dare this government to cut taxes. I dare it to give the people of this country a chance to show that they can run their own affairs. I dare it to reduce taxes even further than it indicated the other night.

When some members spoke specifically on that issue this afternoon, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) responded by doing his "Liberal two-step". The minister stated that they are making it a 7 per cent tax cut. He did that by averaging some figures. However, he is the kind of minister who would put his head in a firebox, his feet on a block of ice and claim that, on the average, he feels pretty good.

If we look at the increases in taxation that have taken place since the present Minister of Finance took over, it is obvious that taxes have increased at such a rate that the amount of the decrease the government is talking about is virtually insignificant. Since 1972 personal income tax has risen by 105 per cent. To suggest to the Canadian people that it will be decreased by 7 per cent is really an insignificant

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

factor. It is certainly insignificant when we think of some of the dire conditions in this inflationary society, or when we look at some of the people who will not be assisted by this program at all.

We are in a situation where the government is taxing the Canadian people at the rate of \$4 million an hour. More important, this is a government that is over-taxing the people, and I stress the word over, at the rate of \$3 million per day for each of the 365 days of the year. That means a government surplus of money is being built up, and all that leads to is increases in government programs.

If there is anything that we, as a society, need to reverse it is the notion that the citizens of this country are subordinate to the government. If we look at the statistics for the rate of federal growth in this country, the facts are obvious. If we are to have democracy where we put trust in, and have a belief in individual citizens, we must more and more reverse the trend of the mother government looking after the sibling citizens.

If you have trust in people, if you believe in them, you do not take the attitude that the government is the institution which looks after them and cares for all their needs. Obviously with the present situation we have to reverse the trend of taxes, not only for the basic principle to replace trust in people but because the government has gone to a position of over-taxing.

The minister said the government is taking in more than it needs. It must be mentioned here that the government is acting as a counter-incentive. The federal government is a killer of this society's motivation. Ministers have told us they will cut personal income tax by either 7 per cent or 3 per cent, depending on which way you calculate the figures. You can do it either way, depending on how you read the clause.

The amount of the cut is a pure mockery compared with recent tax increases. In the three years prior to this minister taking over, federal expenditures rose by 49 per cent to \$14.8 billion. Since the present Finance Minister took over there has been a colossal jump and, forecast to the end of 1975, the increase will be 105 per cent to \$28 billion. That is the kind of government growth we are talking about, a growth that is putting a stranglehold on people. It is insignificant to talk about reducing taxes by only 7 per cent when in fact that only represents between \$60 and \$150 for most taxpayers in this country. I suggest that is pure cookie crumbs.

● (2030)

I am afraid the minister is going to have to do a lot more in terms of trying to satisfy the Canadian people than simply to offer such a small tax incentive in such an inflationary period of time. I do not believe the Minister of Finance has the capacity to save the Canadian society with three little fishes and five loaves of bread. Perhaps this is not wholly the fault of the minister because we know that within the government there is another finance group, known as the group of seven, and that they perhaps have even more power than the Minister of Finance. While this country was at one time quite well noted for a former Group of Seven they weren't the same kind of psychedelic painters as these people who are painting the present Canadian economy.