

should look at this tax form. Their personal exemptions this year compared to last year will be \$530 higher. The mortgage deductibility provision will allow many of them to deduct \$375, and the energy tax credit will amount to \$240 for many of them. Those are three of the major ways in which each individual Canadian family will be helped. That comes to almost \$1,200, which is \$100 that is non-taxed each month. Those are significant changes to all Canadians, and they should be identified. On that one they do not have to trust members on this side or the other side of the House. They can look at their individual tax forms and determine for themselves.

What have we done in terms of raising taxes? Members opposite would have you believe that we have really clobbered the Canadian people. That, I suggest, is simply not so. The group which will be hardest hit in terms of tax increases are the corporations.

● (1730)

The group of corporations which will be most affected by changes in tax legislation are those corporations which are engaged in the oil and gas industry. Those are the corporations, some 700 of which have headquarters in the city which I represent in this House of Commons, and I know that the chief executive officers and employees of those companies do not welcome the kinds of tax changes which will affect them, because the world for them will be significantly different after last evening than it was before. However, at the same time, the people in that industry—my friends, my neighbours, and the people who live around me—are Canadians first. I should perhaps back up from that and say that they are human beings first, the same as the rest of us.

Hon. members opposite talk about multinationals as if there were no human beings inside those corporations. Well, my friends and neighbours laugh, love, and breathe the same as hon. members of this House of Commons and those who work in the automotive industry and every other industry in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hawkes: I said that they are the same. They are in some ways. In some ways we do not do justice to what may in fact be the best example of pioneering left in Canada today, but there is a branch of that industry which is very seldom talked about and should be talked about more, and that is the exploration end of the industry.

Living in this part of the country, Ottawa, is a new experience for me, but when you live in this part of the country you come into contact with the oil and gas industry because someone drives a truck up to your home and puts fuel oil in your tank, or you drive your car to a service station and somebody puts gasoline in your tank. Let me tell hon. members that the oil industry begins out in the field in 40 below Fahrenheit weather with a wind-chill factor of 120.

What are we doing out in the bush country day after day in that industry? We are drilling a hole one mile, two miles, three

miles, or perhaps four miles deep in the ground. How are we drilling it? The same way one drills a hole in a piece of wood. There is a drill down there except that that drill is going down through a narrow pipe. Sometimes it runs into granite, and it does not last very long. You are down there two miles in your search for oil and gas, and you have to bring up that whole two miles' worth of pipe to change the bit on the end of that drill. It comes up in 30-foot lengths. It is steel, and let us remember that the wind-chill factor is 120 below. That is where the oil industry begins, and that is what we are talking about when we are talking about oil self-sufficiency. It is human beings out in the bush in very difficult circumstances.

I would like the public record to show that by October 1 of this year in the province of Alberta alone there had been 19 industrial deaths in that industry. It is an industry which employs approximately 7,500 people when it is flat out. There were 3,500 time loss accidents. It is a hazardous occupation, full of risk for those who choose to invest in it, but a risk of life and limb for those who choose to work in it. Let us not forget that.

Mr. Benjamin: No health and safety laws in Alberta.

Mr. Hawkes: The hon. member opposite talks about health and safety laws in Alberta. We have a tradition in Alberta and in Alberta governments of listening to the people, not telling them what is good for them. We have just gone through a commission in which we looked at health and safety aspects. That will be done again and again. If there is any chance to improve the climate, I think we will be out in the forefront of those who seek to provide the kind of improvement which is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, all public policy is biased. There was never a government invented which could make a decree of any kind which did not show bias in favour of some and against others. Any document such as a federal budget should be judged in the light not only of its details as they impact on particular individuals but also in the light of what it attempts to do and the fact of whether it will accomplish what it intends to do. In his own words and in his own way, the Minister of Finance expressed his view of the budget as a budget which would rely on the initiatives and the sense of enterprise of Canadians. I reviewed the budget and came to some different words which may have relevance for our deliberations, but I think the budget addresses itself in two primary ways to the Canadian condition. What it attempts to do and what I think the policies of this government collectively attempt to do, is bias the universe for at least a period of time in favour of ownership. That is the first thing it does, and if one really looked inside the tax changes as they are going to affect Canadians, I think one could see that.

The most publicly visible part to this point is the mortgage deductibility plan, which encourages Canadians to own homes and makes it a little more possible for them to finance the costs of those homes.

One of the provisions which is in the same category is the provision related to spouses in small unincorporated busi-