

Excise and Sales Taxes

Mr. Coldwell: An admission that you were off the subject.

Mr. Blackmore: Right on the subject, only the Speaker could not recognize it because he did not give me time to say what I was going to say. Now, because of the fact that the individual members of the community are already suffering a tremendous burden of taxation levied by the federal government they are in a much less competent position to stand additional taxation in the municipality which results from a 10 per cent levy on all the goods which are required. Let hon. members bear in mind, merely as an instance, the cost of removing snow in the ordinary municipality of Canada, and remember that all the machinery which is required for the removal of the snow is subject to tax. I think that is sufficient.

I do not wish to multiply words, to go into details; I only wish to point out that I believe the point taken by the Leader of the Opposition is very sound. We propose to support it.

Mr. J. L. Gibson (Comox-Alberni): Before the parliamentary assistant to the minister speaks I am sure he will not mind if I make a comment in this regard. The very fact that the federal government has seen fit to give this advantage to the provincial governments would seem to indicate to me that the time has now arrived when they should consider extending this same privilege to the municipalities.

In the amendment which has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition he is asking that the government give consideration to extending this to the municipalities. I feel that I can support that amendment for the reason that I believe that consideration should be given by this government to extending this exemption to the municipalities, and also to reviewing the present exemption which they have been giving to the provinces. I can well appreciate what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) has said, namely, that there will be great difficulties of administration in seeing that such concessions are not abused. Perhaps there is some measure of justice in what he says, because I am not entirely convinced that it has not been abused to some extent by certain provinces in this country.

Because I believe that if the government would take this matter under consideration they might offer this extension in some form to the municipalities, I say that the matter is worthy of support, if only for the reason that it might clear up the present situation which I am not altogether satisfied is being properly dealt with.

Mr. Jean Lesage (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say just a few words. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition at least on one point, namely, that this question has been discussed at length, especially on March 31, last. On that occasion the Minister of Finance made very clear what the position of the government is on this question. He added that this question had been and still was under consideration by the government.

The hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) said that hon. members should feel free to vote in accordance with their personal opinion on this matter. May I point out to you, sir, that as the Minister of Finance said, and I repeat, this question has been constantly under review and consideration by the government, and he did not feel that the exemption suggested could be granted at this time.

The amendment which was moved by the Leader of the Opposition is to a motion to go into supply, and that amounts to a motion of non-confidence in the government. May I end by saying that the two statements of the Minister of Finance on the matter can be found at pages 3460 and following and 3486 and following of *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Drew) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Blackmore	Higgins
Brooks	Jones
Browne (St. John's West)	Macdonnell (Greenwood)
Cardiff	MacInnis
Casselman	MacLean (Queens)
Charlton	McLure
Churchill	Montgomery
Coldwell	Noseworthy
Diefenbaker	Pearkes
Fair	Poulin
Fleming	Quelch
Fraser	Rowe
Fulton	Starr
Gagnon	Thatcher
Gibson	Thomas
Gillis	Tustin
Graydon	White (Hastings- Peterborough)
Green	White (Middlesex East)—38.
Hees	
Herridge	

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson	Black (Chateauguay- Huntingdon-Laprairie)
Applewhaite	Blanchette
Arsenault	Boisvert
Ashbourne	Boivin
Balcom	