

The Budget—Mr. Blenkarn

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Marchi: I believe that all Canadians would put their noses to the grindstone because they do not mind paying their way for the betterment of this country. However, where Canadians and where we in the Liberal Party object to the way this Government is moving is that the burden is not shared equally. That is when you have tax revolt and that is when you have stratification of classes. For the first time in public polling they are beginning to find after five years of Tory rule that Canadians are beginning to look at class stratification.

We know that we have had our differences East and West. We have had them between French and English. We have had them between federal and provincial Governments. However, we have never had, until now, Canadians beginning to look at themselves as people in Great Britain do; that is to say, in terms of class structure, in terms of those who have and those who have not. This Budget does not enhance that problem; this Budget aggravates that problem.

I wish to ask the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn), the Chairman of our Standing Committee on Finance, why would he almost bring embarrassment upon himself to ask what is so unfair about that tax regime? I suggest that the Government go back to the boardrooms, use the blackboards and inject some fairness, some equity and some dignity for all Canadians, not just offer it to some of their Tory friends who happen to represent a very small stratum of Canadian society.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Hon. Member for York West (Mr. Marchi) has not looked at the Budget and the tax system. It really is unfortunate that he does not understand percentages. I can tell him that at a certain level a person might pay 100 per cent more taxes one year than the next because that individual might move from paying zero tax to paying \$1. I can tell him that the effect of this Budget is to make sure that the rich and the well-off pay a great deal more. That means people who are well off, receiving money from government, and people who are well off earning their money, pay a very substantially enhanced surtax. These problems of enhanced tax are there and they are going forward.

We had a fairly lengthy study, as the Member will know, last year resulting in a White Paper which had certain tax recommendations. This Budget carries on with those tax recommendations. It carries on with a form of minimum tax against corporations that up until now have not paid tax, so that means any corporation having more than \$10 million in assets. That is not a very big corporation but the Budget states big corporations and they will pay a minimum tax.

When the Member talks about tax fairness he ought to understand what really has happened. We are going after those who have the money. We are getting as much as we can from them. We will have to continue to do what we can to get this country on the road and out of its problems.

What we need as Members of Parliament on standing committees and in this House is the willingness to spot items of expense and to spot situations where either taxes ought to be increased specifically or where expenses ought to be cut specifically and make those statements. That is the kind of assistance and leadership we all owe, not only to this House, but to our families.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James and the Hon. Member for Windsor—Lake St. Clair on the list. Members can govern themselves accordingly; we have six minutes.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question about regional development. He has spoken of that and has stated in his remarks that in his view regional development programs were not only retained—I think he alluded to that fact and I am paraphrasing here—but were enhanced or improved. Is he familiar with the part of the country that I represent, that of Eastern Ontario? Is he familiar with the fact that previous Governments, even the same Government in the past, recognized that there were two sections of Ontario which were doing not nearly as well as the rest of the province, namely, Northern Ontario and Eastern Ontario.

In abolishing the Industrial Regional Development Programs and converting the programs into the various agencies across Canada, what the Government has done is established the Atlantic Accord, the Western Canada Diversification Program and FEDNOR. In that process Eastern Ontario has been completely left out.