

*Income Tax*

businesses are moving out of Quebec now probably because of the tax structure of the federal government. I should also like to refer to the inability of the federal government to assist unity in this country. Mr. Chairman, why did the federal government decide not to pay the same subsidy for insulation of a house right across Canada? Why did we not decide to do that? Why do we not say to every person in Canada who wants to insulate his house which is of a certain type and of a certain age that we will give a subsidy? We could write it off under the income tax, or do whatever we liked. But we did not do that.

● (1642)

Instead, the people in P.E.I. and Nova Scotia are in very bad shape, so we say that we will give them a special subsidy of \$500. If any other provinces want to participate, we will give them a different kind of program. This is why we have all the problems of disunity in this country. The federal government has no guts. The federal government does not provide anything. We did not even build the Trans-Canada Highway across this country. The only thing we ever did in the way of unity in this country was at the initial stage of confederation by putting a railway across the country. We did not put the Trans-Canada Highway across the country; we joined up a bunch of provincial highways and called them the Trans-Canada Highway.

We now have the opportunity to help people with respect to insulation. The Liberal member for Fort William said he supported this program because he thought it was a good one. For whom did he think it was a good program? Is it a good program for all Canadians? Why has the federal government not got the guts to put in a program of its own and say it will use the income tax to pay for it, but it will be a federal government program? Then if somebody in Quebec wanted to insulate his house, we could give him the same benefit as somebody in Nova Scotia. No bloody way; that is not the way we do it!

We made one concession to Quebec. We put all our head offices down there. This is very interesting, because I cannot phone the minister of energy or the minister of the environment and get a copy of the regulations. I have to send a letter to Montreal. You cannot phone, because they will not answer the telephone in Montreal. You have to write a letter to Montreal before you can even get a bulletin. Isn't it really time that we put in a federal program? The minister is a federalist. How can he agree with the crackpot programs we work out on an individual basis, with one province played against another—and they are played one against the other? If Newfoundland wanted this program, it would be different than the one for P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. British Columbia is to have a different one. The one you are working out today with Quebec will be different again. They are all different. Why are they not Canadian? It is just as cold in Ville Marie as it is in Haileybury, but they are just across the river, one in Quebec and one in Ontario. Why should two citizens, one in each place, not be treated in the same way? No wonder there is disunity in this country.

[Mr. Peters.]

Even a simple little thing like the federal government making money available, not very much but some, for insulation is done on a different basis in different provinces. The money should be available to everybody. These people pay the same money for their postage stamps. There are many things they must buy for which they pay the same, so why is there not equality when we have a program like this? I am having difficulty with another program that is in another part of this bill.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. member would permit me to ask him a question. Is he advocating that the programs under DREE should not apply in northern Ontario?

**Mr. Peters:** I am suggesting that the programs under DREE should apply the same in northern Ontario as they do in other parts of Canada, but they do not.

**An hon. Member:** They are the same.

**Mr. Peters:** No, I am sure they do not apply in the same way, because we have to get approval from Toronto. Where do we in Northern Ontario find our worst enemy, but in Toronto?

**An hon. Member:** There is an office in Sudbury.

**Mr. Peters:** There is a master agreement you are renegotiating now. I talked to the Ontario minister and he said you were pretty tough negotiators. He was blaming you. But it is my opinion that you have to go to him to get your master agreement, and you can only do what you agree to do. Another province will agree to do something different, so it is different in Quebec than it is in Ontario. Anyone from northern Ontario or northern Quebec knows our provincial capitals may not be our best friends on most occasions.

I am making a plea to the minister. This minister sincerely believes in unity. I am sure he does. He would have gone as provincial leader of the Liberal party in Quebec if he did not believe that. He believes his role is here, and he is going to make this his role. Will he explain why we are playing around with this kind of clause. Why do we not just put it into the other act and put in here that all people can take advantage of it? I congratulate him on the way he has written it in, and I congratulate him for the fact that he is giving greater benefit to the little guy than to the rich one. I congratulate him on the system he is using. This is a system we have used for a long time. I would like to see him talk to his colleagues, because he has to supply the money for any plan they have. He is now in a position to do this. He should provide some equality for the various programs in the provinces. This young student will be interested in your answer, because it is his charge that this roll-over program is going to be divisive and will do nothing for unity.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Chairman, in reply I would like to say that this roll-over program is intended to help people who want to expand their businesses. This will give them the opportunity of having the necessary liquidity to progress. I think it should