

*Income Tax Act*

It was in 1962 that the government of the right hon. member from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) established the royal commission on taxation. Now, in the closing days of 1971, more than nine years later, the exercise is coming to a conclusion. Has nine years been enough time? No, no, says the opposition. Let us keep at it still longer. The only thing that has dragged on as slowly in Canada in recent years is the heavy water plant started by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) when he was premier of Nova Scotia.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I might add that with Liberal assistance, both of these projects will conclude successfully.

This legislation will place Canada's tax system in the forefront of any of the industrialized nations. It is a reform of the present outdated act with its hodge-podge of amendments, loopholes, plugs, interpretations and confusion. All of this will be replaced by a single modern tax structure. That in itself is reason enough to pass this bill and to be proud of our efforts. Sweeping away the cluttered debris which has accumulated since 1949 and putting in its place a rational tax system is in itself an accomplishment of considerable merit. This bill, however, is much more than a comprehensive income tax statute. It is relevant to the day's needs and it is sufficiently flexible to permit it to adapt to the needs of tomorrow.

**An hon. Member:** You are reading.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Above all, it is fair and equitable. It is fair because it removes from low income groups much of the disproportionate income tax burden which they now bear. One million Canadians will be removed from the tax rolls. A further 4.7 million will pay less tax.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** The legislation is fairer because the tax burden has been spread so as to include those persons who benefit through capital gains; no longer will the load be concentrated only on salary and wage earners and businessmen.

It is fairer to mothers who wish to work, because it permits deductions for child care expenses, removing a deterrent which has kept many women in the home.

**An hon. Member:** You are reading.

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is fairer to those who are mentally or physically handicapped or disabled. Payments to schools for the care and training of such persons will now be deductible.

It is fairer to the elderly. The existing exemption will be increased and applied at age 65 rather than age 70 as at present.

It is fairer to all members of the labour force for it permits broad deductions of expenses incurred in moving oneself and one's family to another part of the country in order to accept a new job. A new employment expense allowance provides deductions in respect of special clothes, books and tools required for a job, putting the wage and salary earner on a more equal footing with the self-employed.

**An hon. Member:** You are reading.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Trudeau:** All this may be too complex for the opposition. It may be incomprehensible to them. But I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is not incomprehensible to the Canadian taxpayer.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is not incomprehensible to the low income groups, to the elderly, to the handicapped, to working mothers. But hon. members opposite will protest. They will say they are in favour of cutting taxes. Mr. Speaker, the Conservative party is only opposed to taxing others. That is the essence of fiscal irresponsibility.

**An hon. Member:** You're reading.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I bring it to the notice of the House that any hon. member, even the Prime Minister, has a right to make a speech without being interrupted.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Muir:** Tell them all that.

**Mr. Speaker:** My remarks are addressed to all hon. members equally. I am saying this objectively and with all kindness. I am inviting hon. members to bear in mind that it is difficult for the Chair to follow the speech which is being made, and uphold the dignity of this institution, if hon. members do not have respect for the rules.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Then let us take the speech as read, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask whether from now on it is permissible for any member of the House to read his speech, or does the present rule only allow hon. members on the front benches to read their speeches?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has referred to the rule which has often been quoted. My experience in the chair is that while a number of hon. members do make speeches without reference to notes, or copious notes, or prepared texts, other hon. members on both sides of the House do refer to texts from day to day. Hon. members on both sides of the House do refer to prepared texts at various times and I would think the leniency the Chair has exercised in this regard continues to apply. I would think it should apply in the present instance.

• (4:30 p.m.)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would ask again if it is the intention to shut off the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) when he is on his feet.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is aimed in the direction of all hon. members. I can assure hon. members I will try, objectively and fairly, to invite all hon. members not to interfere with hon. members who have the floor. I am not suggesting of course that members are not entitled to make interruptions or are not entitled to some degree of heckling, because after all this is the House of Commons and I