

cial, municipal and federal governments, and it is very simplistic to say, "Well, my goodness, isn't that nice? We have that great government there, and look how well they have done". Of course, it is a collective thing in Canada that all governments are a part of the whole.

I think it is all very well, Mr. Speaker, to take one section—to take Bill C-11 and put it in the context that it is the only thing the government of Canada is involved in. Those are only programs with which we are concerned. Therefore, to take this bill solely in the context that there is no other spectrum in the economic life of this government, I would like to point out that in British Columbia in 1977, an agreement was signed between the province and the federal government, in the amount of \$181 million, for industrial development in the province. I would also like to point out that in 1977, in the province of British Columbia, another agreement came into force. I refer to the salmon enhancement program, worth approximately \$153 million to British Columbia. I refer also to the coal development agreement under which the federal government is funding, in part, studies to explore the possibilities of using northeast coal and open up the northeast portion of British Columbia. In addition, the agreement regarding the ferries in British Columbia can be used as part of that spectrum of economic life in Canada, in British Columbia, which is not specifically dealt with in this bill. It occurs on a day by day, month by month basis, as the hon. member is well aware.

I did not hear, Mr. Speaker, any contrary remarks about the measures included in Bill C-11 referring to reducing taxes by individuals in the sum of \$500 million in 1977. As I understand that, in 1978 this amount will increase to \$1,200 million. This is a reduction in taxes for the people of Canada which can be said to be very small. But are we disagreeing with the principle that in order to make the economy more buoyant, tax reductions should be made at this time and perhaps should flow to the purchase of consumer and other goods which will, hopefully, stimulate our economy?

I was very pleased, Mr. Speaker, in Bill C-11 to note that for a number of years representation had been made to increase the maximum deductions in employment expenses. Finally, this year it has been raised from \$150 to \$250. Mr. Speaker, I have had several hundred letters from members of the IWA in the province of British Columbia who have complained over a number of years that this should have been increased because the purchase of logging boots, the purchase of clothing—which is expensive and has gone up over the years—has now been recognized and there should be greater allowances for those people.

● (1652)

People who work in the bush, in the mines and in various other manual occupations will be able to take advantage of a tax cut. They will be able to put this on their income tax. I applaud the fact that this has been increased. No one has said, at least this afternoon, that the tax credit has been increased to \$300 from \$200 and \$50 for each dependant child which will be of benefit to lower income taxpayers. If the hon. member

Income Tax

who spoke before me was opposed to this, let him say so and perhaps we can have a debate on it.

Unfortunately, what happens in many cases is that instead of debating the actual bill, we end up in a dialogue on the ills of the country. In many cases there is more gloom and doom than actual fact about the economy of Canada. All hon. members are aware of the impact of this House and what is reported to the people across Canada through the various media. If the opposition parties day in and day out continually emphasize the failures or shortcomings, whether of a long-term or temporary nature, in our economy, they do a disservice to the Canadian people.

Obviously, there are things that must be corrected. I agree that there are problems in our economy. However, I ask hon. members whether we are the only country that has these problems. This is not something unique to Canada. If hon. members are honest, I suspect they will say there are dislocations throughout the world economy, on some of which we can have an impact, some we can try to correct, but many are outside our boundaries and we cannot correct. We cannot change the policies of other countries. There are many examples of this: the OPEC countries have quadrupled the world price of oil. When the price of coffee doubles or triples, at the source—whether it be Brazil or some other country—the government of Canada has a very small role to play. The consumer may have some part to play by refusing to buy such items as coffee and other goods where there is a discretionary power of purchase. Our message to the people of Canada should be that instead of complaining about the cost of goods coming into this country, they should do something about it. If people boycott or reduce their purchases of goods because of high prices, those prices will become lower.

It is our job, as parliamentarians, to show alternatives to people rather than to decry the fact that something has happened over which we have no control. I feel very strongly that we do have a discretionary buying power. I hope that out of these debates there will be one thing to which I can contribute when we have a dollar that is approximately 13 cents below the American dollar. The government and parliament should come out with the message, strong and clear, that if Canadians do not like the prices they are paying for their imports, they should buy Canadian goods. If we bought more Canadian goods, we would not have the unemployment we have today. If we are sincere, members on both sides of the House should be encouraging people to buy Canadian goods instead of trying to find the lowest possible price in the markets which put our people out of work. This is a goal for which we should strive.

Instead of crying crocodile tears about our dollar being 13 cents below the American dollar, we should get our own house in order. This would give us a means of being more competitive. We are not only non-competitive in world markets, but in many cases we are not competitive within the Canadian economy. If a Canadian article costs a few cents more, we should stress that if people "Buy Canadian" they will create more jobs in Canada.