

*Government Orders*

I read this bill and I see various institutions being dismantled, the Livestock Feed Board being one of them, and of course we have talked about Harbourfront. I am worried about the privatization of rural post offices in Canada. I am worried about the post office buildings in this country. There used to be the flag of Canada on a government building in rural communities right across the country, and now we see those buildings being sold to the private sector and the flag of Canada being removed. On the logo of Canada Post Corporation the word "Canada" no longer appears. We see "mail", the logo, and "poste".

I am very much worried about that because yes, this country was built with private sector initiative, but with government encouragement as well. We have seen these instruments of national unity that have been dismantled by this government, some of them described in this bill, and the post offices and several others that have been privatized by other bills brought to the attention of this House by the member for Brampton, the minister of selling everything off.

Would my colleague agree that indeed this is very much cause for concern, that this government needs to be reminded that it is a custodian of the property of the taxpayers of Canada and that the property of the taxpayers is not just there for it to sell off as quickly as it can just because it has an ideological bent to do so?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Mr. Speaker, as you might have expected, I agree with everything that my hon. colleague has said, except the very generous phrase that he awarded to me for my very modest intervention. I feel that he has been very accurately describing the implications of this bill.

I think it is significant and worth noting, because it is always characteristic of this member for Prescott—Glenarry—Russell, that he touched on concerns not only of the city of Toronto and other parts of the country but particularly those, as he always does, that affect so closely his own constituency, an interest that he has tended and taken to heart with such sincerity and such dedication for so long.

• (1830)

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments are now over. Resuming debate. Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** On division.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

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[*English*]

## INCOME TAX ACT

### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of Finance)** moved that Bill C-86, an act to amend the Income Tax Act (child tax credit), be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs) and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak briefly to the second reading of Bill C-86, which implements important changes to the child tax credit bill.

It is intended to provide further assistance to families with low and modest incomes who have three or more children. The change was announced first by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech in February and is part of our government's continuing effort to ease the situation of those most in need. This important principle is one of the bases of our economic policies. Since the beginning of our term of office, we have acted to assist those Canadians whose situation called for action.

Our reform of the income tax system, for example, was intended, in part, to assist lower-income families. As well, I would point to the important role of the GST tax credit in the reform of the sales tax system. That credit also was to ensure that families with incomes below \$30,000 would be better off than before. So under sales tax reform, three-quarters of all families headed by seniors or single parents will have more after-tax income than before. Unfortunately, I have to point out that that is still being held up in the Senate and it may be some time before those children actually receive those dollars. The proposal in Bill C-86 will raise the income ceiling