

Tax Rebate

that a new grains policy is to be announced at the start of the next crop year, but we see the minister in charge of the Wheat Board sneaking out press releases. There is a new, secret grains policy being circulated which is bound to cause nothing but anxiety and confusion in western Canada and, I suggest, in eastern Canada as well. Today we listened to the so-called new policy regarding a milk subsidy for the dairy industry. The new policy is nothing more than a small change in the subsidy.

In reading through this bill I found the definition of "business" in the all-encompassing language that is now popular. It is as follows:

"Business" includes the business of

(a) manufacturing, producing, transporting, acquiring, supplying, storing and otherwise dealing in articles and

(b) acquiring, supplying and otherwise dealing in services—

The provision goes on to deal with offences in relation to trade and marketing in Canada. I would like to deal for a short while with the question of government interference into some aspects of our marketing system and policies, particularly in the very important feed grain industry which affects Canadians from east to west.

May I call it four o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

● (1600)

[Translation]

It being four o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE OF MOTION

[Translation]

INCOME TAX

SUGGESTED TAX REBATE IN RESPECT OF MORTGAGE INTERESTS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf) moves:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of granting an income tax rebate equal to the amount paid in mortgage interest on a family home and in municipal and educational taxes, the whole not to exceed \$1,000 per year.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I would like first to thank the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe) who was kind enough to support this motion. I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity of discussing this motion since its purpose is to help Canadians who have made some sacrifices in order to become home owners as well as all those who are contemplating such an opportunity.

Needless to say that I hope to get the House's support so that the people involved will benefit as soon as possible from the passing of this legislation. In my opinion, it is urgent that Parliament should authorize the deduction of

[Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek).]

municipal and school taxes for owners of family homes, as is the case with owners of apartment houses.

Evidently, large mortgages should also receive the same attention, if we really want to give Canadians a chance to become home owners.

With appropriate legislation, the government now help industrialists, tradesmen and various corporations. Businessmen can now contact the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, for instance, and select the program they need, including those designed to increase productivity in the manufacture and use of equipment, accessories and building materials. There are also a number of other programs: the small businesses assistance program; the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act, the machinery program, the program to increase productivity, the pharmaceutical industry development assistance program, the shipbuilding assistance program. When we examine other government programs, we find that several sectors are assisted.

The services offered to employers by the Department of Manpower and Immigration include a service for employers, the manpower adjustment program, the business management training program and the industrial manpower training program. There are even special treatments concerning exports. To date, all these programs have given concrete results and precisely because these programs provide for loans at preferential rates and grants, we have to welcome them.

But only certain social classes benefit from these programs and that is why I think the motion I propose can supplement the plan in force; its implementation would be easy since it does not call for any expenses.

Even if most Canadian home owners do not contribute to the electoral fund of the old parties, I think they are entitled to a minimum of protection. To this day and without any real opposition, Canadian home owners have accepted all tax charges: municipal, school, and urban community taxes, sales tax and the 11 per cent tax on building materials. The list grows longer each year, and we know that this has resulted in trebling tax costs.

In the Quebec City area, houses built ten years ago for \$12,000 now have an estimated value of \$19,000 to \$20,000.

Mr. Speaker, what businessmen and big corporations do with tax is resort to the wear and tear clause.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for the single family homeowners, since not only can the homeowner not do a thing about the depreciation on his own house, but he is forced to accept the assessment increases. So we see that as a result of scientific assessments, the value of the house is increasing with time.

For science's sake, we see a further rise in the price of our properties. There follows interesting results in the financial respect, since all over the country homeowners have seen their municipal and school taxes increase threefold in 10 years. The mayors of our cities, who know how to calculate, and who even show some honesty, are warning us that the tax increases we had to pay up until now are only a beginning, since we should expect to see the taxes increase twofold within five years. In other words, the homeowner who had to pay \$300 10 years ago, and who