

*Government Orders*

months ago, that it will take another 4,000 Revenue Canada inspectors.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to say that the hon. member's time has expired.

**Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the motions that the hon. member for Calgary Northeast has proposed in the House today I think indicate incredibly sound sense. The extraordinary thing is that on the motion we have already debated today there has been no one on the opposite side of the House stand up to refute any of the arguments he has put to the House, in my view, quite ably.

I can understand the reluctance on the part of hon. members opposite to defend the indefensible, but it is their budget that is being proposed here and their budget taxation measures that are being discussed in these amendments. You would think that the minister or somebody would stand up and say: "The reason we are imposing this tax is because of this or because of that". But there is no defence of the taxation that has been proposed.

The hon. member for Calgary Northeast has provided the House with some criticisms that I think are worth while taking into account. The government obviously is ignoring those criticisms from one of its own members. It is a shocking example of arrogance and unwillingness to come into this House and discuss this matter. It says: "take it or leave it" and leaves it for us to vote against it.

Why the members on the opposite side sit on their hands and vote with the Minister of Finance for these incredibly harsh and vicious taxes is beyond me. The hon. member for Calgary Northeast has clearly seen the light and he realizes that this is something that is unacceptable to the people of Canada. Yet this government seems bent on pursuing this course, come what may.

I would like to turn to the taxes and some of the figures that the hon. member for Calgary Northeast has cited. He has already referred to the unbelievable spending habits of the government, and how expenditures have increased so dramatically from the time they took office. He pointed out, quite rightly, the \$42 billion increase in taxes that Canadians are now paying since

this Tory mismanagement group took over the operation of the Government of Canada in 1984.

The amount raised by taxation has gone from \$70 billion, as the hon. member pointed out, to \$112 billion in that five-year period. There have been 31 separate tax increases, and here we are debating a bunch more. Canadians have pretty well had it. This government has imposed too many tax increases.

I find it quite extraordinary that the Minister of Finance, in his rantings and ravings about the evils of the current manufacturers' sales tax, has repeatedly told Canadians how unacceptable that tax is, this silent killer of jobs. Even the Prime Minister has taken up the refrain, chanting a round the country: "this tax is a silent killer of jobs".

If it is such a silent killer of jobs, why have they increased it so drastically from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent as they are doing in this bill? If it is a silent killer of jobs surely you lower the tax, you do not increase it. But not this bunch. They do not seem to understand their own rhetoric. They say it is a silent killer of jobs on the one hand, but they make it worse by increasing it instead of lowering it. It simply escapes my comprehension.

I think most Canadians agree with me that this is sheer folly. The government is acting improperly, it is not doing its job, it is mismanaging the Canadian economy and mismanaging our tax system. It is mismanaging almost everything it touches. It is ruining VIA Rail. It is mismanaging one thing after another in Canada. It is time for the government to get out if it cannot do better.

I want to go back to the gasoline taxes because they are one set of the taxes that are being raised in this bill. The memory of hon. members opposite must be exceedingly short. I am sure the hon. member for Calgary Northeast recalls well the day the present Minister for International Trade who was formerly the Minister of Finance in another incarnation stood in this House and presented a budget. I was not here, but I remember hearing a lot about the budget at the time. The budget proposed massive tax increases of 28 cents, I believe, on gasoline. I am sure hon. members opposite remember what happened. The minister lost control of the House, was forced into an election, and was walloped in the election.