

Income Tax Act

increased tariffs that are being imposed in eastern Canada are reflected in western Canada and are of little benefit to the people out there and it should be considered by the government that we in Alberta have a beef in that respect.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has stated time and time again he wanted a voice from western Canada, and especially from Alberta, in his cabinet. He has that voice now but he has muzzled it, as he has previous ministers, therefore, Albertans feels that the Prime Minister has betrayed them. He has made a sacrificial lamb out of the Minister of Transport and, if anybody is to stand up and voice the disapproval of Alberta, who would be in a better position than the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce? Instead of that, the minister covers up the tracks behind the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, and we do not accept that.

This is the most discriminatory treatment that has ever been handed to Alberta since it became a province, the worst treatment we have had in 73 years. Not only do we feel we are being neglected financially, but we believe we are neglected from the human point of view also. As I said earlier, we want to be considered. We want to be part of the family, and if we are to be part of the family, then the programs which are put in place should make room for the residents of Alberta. If not, we must believe that the Prime Minister, who purports to care for and protect culture, cares much less for people, especially if they happen to be Albertans.

I think the Minister of Finance has been remiss in not giving greater consideration to the pleas from this side of the House on behalf of the province of Alberta. In the *Globe and Mail* of this day we find the following statement:

Finance minister Jacques Parizeau said yesterday he will present another proposal later this week aimed at solving the continuing dispute over sales tax cuts between his government and Ottawa . . .

Mr. Parizeau said his offer, to be considered first by the Quebec cabinet tomorrow, will deal "exclusively with transfer methods" for the \$226 million involved in the dispute . . .

Federal finance minister Jean Chrétien made the motion in the Commons and said he would press ahead with the bill until he gets another proposal from Quebec.

The reference here is to the closure motion imposed today. He is certainly leaving Alberta out in the cold as he deals with Mr. Parizeau. The article goes on to state:

Mr. Parizeau said the federal government has already come some distance from its earlier positions.

Mr. Parizeau said the only question now is the method of payment.

I should like to impress upon you, Mr. Speaker, that we too would like to have some payment in the province of Alberta because the incentives and the money that have been put into the oil projects in Alberta will bring return to the Government of Canada and to the province of Ontario. Let me impress upon you, Mr. Speaker, that not a dollar is going out of the federal treasury to the province of Alberta as a result of this budget. Some business incentives are contained which will benefit all of Canada, not just the Albertans. Let me quote the

[Mr. Towers.]

statement that was made by the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster), as reported at page 5977 of *Hansard*. He said:

If we look at the Syncrude project, which is a projection sized, scale sized plant in which both the federal and provincial governments of Alberta and Ontario invested some \$600 million, we see a very good return to the governments because the three governments involved hold an equity of some 37 per cent in that plant, and yet some 77 per cent of the revenues from the production scale plant will be accruing to these governments. The revenues over the next 25 years are estimated to be some \$25 billion. The federal government will collect some \$3.5 billion in taxes towards the end of the production life of that plant.

This proves beyond reasonable doubt that the federal government is going to enjoy benefits from development in Alberta. I hope the government will mend the error of its ways when dealing with Mr. Parizeau and that tomorrow the Minister of Finance will telephone the Alberta minister of finance to ask him what he considers will be a fair share for that province in this budget proposal which is being presented to the House of Commons and to the Canadian people.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to express the views of at least one Albertan.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat dismayed a little while ago when the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) spoke. He started out in a very professorial manner in addressing himself to Bill C-56 and made some rather interesting remarks about what the government has done in his own part of Canada as well as in the prairie provinces. Then he made mention of the fact that Bill C-56 will be of great help to various groups on the prairies.

But then, without any provocation, so far as I can recall—this was only about an hour ago—he took off in a very emotional way and began to play what I call pretty dirty politics. I use that term advisedly and I mean to stay within the rules of our House. The minister started making certain statements to the effect that one of the opposition parties was responsible for spreading certain misconceptions in western Canada with respect to a province in eastern or central Canada. I am surprised to hear a cabinet minister of the intellectual calibre of the Minister of Transport allow himself to become so entangled in that kind of verbal crossfire which does nothing but bring disrepute to us, not only as members of parliament but as Canadian citizens. We are going through a very, very difficult time in our history. We do not need statements which excite, get us up tight and make us say things that normally we would not say.

● (2132)

At the outset I should like to say that no party in the House has a premium as far as popularity is concerned in western Canada, central Canada, Quebec or the Atlantic provinces. As members of parliament, we are required to talk about our constituencies as well as the country as a whole. We should do what we can to hold Canada together and not divide it. We must not use methods or means which will incite emotions in this chamber and create division instead of attempting to narrow the gap between the various regional, ethnic and racial groups within the country.