

Income Tax Act, 1986

Mr. Rodriguez: There is the greatest sucker and blower of all time, the Hon. Member for St. John's West. We know how he does it. He does it on Screech. I accuse the Government of making no effort whatsoever to reform the tax system so that it will become more progressive, fairer and—

Mr. Clark (Brandon-Souris): What about the minimum tax?

Mr. Rodriguez: Our Party is very concerned about that. We made it one of the issues in the campaign. Once again we forced the Leader of the Conservative Party, now the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), into admitting that we ought to do something about a minimum tax. Because of our concern we set up a task force which will go across this country listening to what Canadians have to say about how we can make the system fairer. I know the Tories had a tax task force which went across the country, but what they were more interested in was the mechanics of collection. They were laying the blame on tax collectors. What we are attempting to do is to listen to thoughtful suggestions from Canadians about how we can make the tax system fair. In the long run, if the people under the yolk of the tax system get to a point where they believe that the tax system is very unfair, they are going to kick up their heels. It is most unhealthy for a democracy to have a tax system so burdensome on people that it causes them to do things not in accordance with a free and open society and forces that society to react in a way which limits our freedoms.

Look south of the border. There is a country which has a national debt of how many trillions? I cannot imagine how much a trillion is. You can count 24 hours a day without sleeping or eating for 300,000 years before you would reach a trillion. The U.S. is a country similar to ours, a democratic and open society, and it is faced with this trillion-dollar debt. What are they doing with their tax structure at the moment? They are cutting taxes for ordinary Americans. What are we doing? We are going the other way. We are adding taxes. The Japanese have deficits but no one has mentioned that. They deal with that by borrowing from their own people and they pay it back.

Mr. Crosbie: What does it matter where you borrow it from, you have to pay it back.

Mr. Rodriguez: There is nothing here you have that—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to interrupt the—

Mr. Crosbie: Are you suggesting we do not pay it back?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I regret to say that the Hon. Member's time has expired. Questions or comments.

● (1630)

Mr. Fraleigh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to try to teach the Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) a few lessons in basic economics.

Mr. Crosbie: Impossible.

Mr. Fraleigh: Never having done anything to generate a job in his life, I hope he will listen. To generate jobs in this country it takes entrepreneurs who are willing to invest their money, something that is hard for a socialist to understand. The only thing that creates jobs is people who are willing to take some risks, spend their money, and create those jobs. The Member may have a hard time understanding that.

Mr. Riis: Like Dome Petroleum?

Mr. Fraleigh: That is a fact of life.

Mr. Riis: I think Dome Petroleum is a good example for you to use.

Mr. Fraleigh: If the Members would just listen, although I know it is hard for them. I know the socialists have a real problem in understanding this. Entrepreneurs invest their money if they know they are going to be allowed some return on that investment. However, the great socialists want to tax the entrepreneur to death so that he gets nothing in return for the risks he takes. Just listen and I will tell you about it. You never generated a job in your life, any of you.

Mr. Fulton: You're pathetic.

Mr. Fraleigh: Address those problems. I want to tell—

Mr. Riis: Aren't you wonderful? You are absolutely fantastic, aren't you? Just sit there and lecture us. You created all these jobs. You're wonderful. We're saying that you are wonderful. Please tell us more.

Mr. Fraleigh: I want to assure the Members of one thing. I made every dollar I ever got.

Mr. Waddell: How do you know we never generated a job? You're an asshole. You don't even know.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please!

Mr. Waddell: How do you know that?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please! We only have another seven minutes.

Mr. Riis: You're a bloody insult.

Mr. Waddell: That's an insult. I have had three businesses and two professions, so don't give me that crap.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will recognize the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez).

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member has generated a lot of hot air in a short period of time.

Mr. Riis: He's a brilliant orator.

Mr. Rodriguez: I would like to point out to him all the great entrepreneurs who took risks with the Canadian Commercial