

Income Tax Act

Our economic agenda has attracted more visitors to Canada, not only people who are looking at investing in Canada but people who are coming as visitors. The number of foreign travellers in the first nine months of 1986 was up by 19 per cent compared with the same period the previous year. This is something in which Ontario has participated and, in particular, the riding of Stormont—Dundas. It is something in which all of Canada has participated. Ours is an attractive country, not only for investors but for visitors and tourists who love to visit us.

There are many other positive economic indicators. Consumer spending has risen, which is good news for small business, retailers and for all the people on Main Street, Canada. Retail sales have increased by 10 per cent in the last year from September, 1985 to September, 1986, and by 23 per cent since the election in 1984.

Price stability is certainly something about which we can be proud. After a period of high inflation coupled with staggering interest costs, the inflation rate in the last two years has been in the 4 per cent range. Price stability is something which has grown out of the direction and the soundness of the Government.

The Progressive Conservative Government inherited a deficit of \$38.3 billion. Last year the deficit fell to \$34.4 billion. This year it will probably be in the \$32 billion range. This will be the first time in 16 years that the deficit has declined for two consecutive years. I think we can probably project that it will continue this downward trend. Excluding debt service costs, spending declined by \$1 billion last year. This was the first significant decline in program expenditures since the Second World War. Bill C-23 facilitates further reductions and more responsible Government.

A couple of Members who spoke before me referred to the capital gains tax exemption. Although that is not part of this Bill, it is certainly part of the responsible tax reform that our Government is endeavouring to present. It is not only a fair and equitable tax but it is a simplification for a great many people doing business in Canada. I hope that further Bills of this nature will be introduced. I hope that we will be able to introduce in this session further legislation which will simplify the tax system. I believe that we are one of the first Governments to take such a bold initiative to attempt to simplify our tax system. I know that in this respect we will have the co-operation of all Members of the House as we develop these ideas in committee and also in the consultation process which is so much a part of our Government. All Canadians will continue to have an input into our Government and into the legislation which we are presenting. This Bill is a great example of the consultation process. I know that future Bills involving tax reform will have the opinions and ideas of all Canadians. It is a difficult procedure to have equity and fairness and at the same time simplification.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 9(4)(a) I move:

That the House continue to sit beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment for the purpose of the continued consideration of Bill C-23, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act and a related Act.

• (1740)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the terms of the motion moved by the Hon. Member for Stormont—Dundas (Mr. Warner). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): According to the provisions of Standing Order 9(4)(b), if 25 Members rise in their places to object, the motion is defeated. Shall the motion carry?

And fewer than 25 Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There not being 25 Members rising in objection to the motion, according to the provisions of Standing Order 9(4)(b), the motion is deemed to be carried.

Motion (Mr. Warner) agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Questions or comments?

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, I would first like to make a comment and then ask a question of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Stormont—Dundas (Mr. Warner). First, of course, I wish to express shock and dismay at the attitude of the Government. Obviously, being the non-partisan person that you are, Madam Speaker, you will understand that I am simply outraged by the tactics used by the Conservative Government in trying to ram through this legislation.

Having made that remark, I would like to ask my colleague a question. The Hon. Member for Stormont—Dundas, of course, represents a constituency which neighbours on mine. In fact, he represents the riding right next to the one I have the honour and privilege of representing in this House. He will know that both our areas have not benefited from much of the new growth that we have seen in the Province of Ontario, particularly in the last couple of years.

If I can get the attention of other Hon. Members, and I am not convinced yet that they are all listening, I would ask the Hon. Member a question. The Hon. Member will know that in three successive Budgets, beginning with the expenditure and program review of November, 1984 as well as the two budgetary documents, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson)—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. Order, please. The Chair would very much like to hear the questions and comments. It is very difficult to do so when comments going across the floor are louder than the voice of the people who are speaking into the microphone.