

Taxation Reform

Let me say to these people in all seriousness that in our modern system, life would not be livable were it not for the public goods and services created, the public housing and urban renewal, the planned cities which make life liveable in the megalopolis that we now have and the opportunity of young people to find a useful, meaningful and creative life which depends on education at all levels. All these things, and many more, will not be created by private corporations and will not be created by private goods. They can be created only if the federal government, provincial governments and municipal governments can find the funds to promote, initiate and develop plans in all those fields. That to me seems to be elementary in our present society. One does not have to be a dogmatic socialist or anything else to recognize this fact. One does not have to rely on lengthy doctrines in order to recognize that in our modern society the money, goods and services that people require in order to live a life that has any quality at all, depend on public investment, public initiative and public ownership.

Yet what does this white paper do for us? The white paper and the Minister of Finance who produced it make sure that those who hold shares and clip dividend coupons will have concessions but those who may be encouraged to invest in bonds or securities of federal, provincial or municipal governments will have no concessions at all. The entire white paper is pointed in the direction of equity share capital to make the bond market much more difficult in the future, and in the direction of increasing interest rates. This makes it more and more difficult for the government of this country to carry out its duties without mortgaging future generations for years and years at ever higher rates of interest.

This is a perversion of the social needs of a modern society; this is a betrayal of the social needs of a modern society. A tax system ought to make it as easy as possible for governments to raise their funds at the lowest possible interest rates, instead of placing roadblocks in the way of federal, provincial and municipal governments obtaining the funds for these essential services and goods for which they are responsible in our society.

Mr. Speaker, as I have only another minute I shall conclude by saying briefly, if I can put it adequately, that to me this White Paper merely reflects the determination of this government to encourage foreign ownership and

control of the economy in the same way the government has encouraged it until now. The continentalists are all on the treasury benches. This White Paper reflects a determination by the government to do nothing to reduce either the competition or the power of the rich and the powerful. It reflects a reactionary attitude toward modern society in the government is not concerned at all with equality in the condition of life of the Canadian people. The government would seem to be concerned only with making sure that their friends, if they are a little angry, are not angry enough to stop giving the support which they require in order to continue in power.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to say what I have in mind about the White Paper.

Mr. Speaker, the so-called White Paper has turned red. I do not know why, but I think it is from shame due to the tax increase, particularly on capital gains.

We have a lot of things to say about the White Paper which will put our economy further off balance as a result of tax increases and higher interest rates, and as a result of the exaggerated profits that some financial institutions realize, which while degrading the population brings unparalleled prosperity to these institutions.

• (3:10 p.m.)

We have no time to suggest alternative solutions to replace the findings of the report. However, we realize that there is a need for constant fiscal study and reform of our present system, to alloy its injustices.

The Carter Commission rendered a great service by accomplishing its task. We consider that a fiscal reform should immediately challenge abuses and eliminate the injustices which result therefrom.

That is what the White Paper should have done. But taxes are levied on a sector of the population that does not have enough money to cope with its needs and to balance family, city, school and provincial budgets.

The report does not speak well of the authorities insofar as the tax reforms of the last few years are concerned. The persistency of that outlook requires from the government unceasing concern and effort. It must see to it that the public has confidence in the tax