

The federal tax heist on meals definitely adds to the cost and takes the enjoyment out of dining out. The cost of entertainment in Canada is much higher due to the federal Government's increase in the cost of alcoholic beverages.

Through the federal tax on gasoline and increases in the cost of alcoholic beverages, food and food production, the Government has increased the overhead for tourist businesses to a level where the operator must charge so much to cover his costs that he is pricing himself out of business. All governments must realize that the tourist industry is not a bottomless well filled with money for governments to do with what they will. Governments must realize that because of their ever increasing demand for taxes and their practice of continually increasing taxes on tourism, they have been dipping too deep into the well and now find that the well has been bailed dry.

Governments have siphoned off billions of dollars of revenue from the industry. In 1982, Mr. Speaker, the revenue from tourism in Canada was \$16.5 billion. Governments siphoned \$8 billion in taxes off the industry. Almost 50 per cent of the revenue from tourism went directly into the coffers of governments. The industry quite simply cannot stand the excessive drain caused by the over-taxation of the industry. For much too long governments have been looking at the tourist industry as a source of revenue. Every time more money is required by governments for their programs and policies they tax tourism for the dollars they are looking for.

The industry must be allowed to retain more of the revenue it generates. The industry requires money to revitalize itself, to upgrade its facilities, and to provide an ever improving product. In today's society customers are expecting higher standards and better service than ever before. It is about time that governments took steps to rectify the damage they have caused to the industry. I believe it is a lack of government understanding and co-ordination between Departments which has led the tourist industry to the state in which it is today. Government decisions are often made without regard to their implications in the travel industry. Unfortunately we have many examples of this.

I would like to deal with the role of governments in helping the industry and to discuss the obvious lack of co-ordination between government Departments, which has had a negative effect on the industry over the last few years. To do this, Mr. Speaker, I must impress upon you the importance of the industry to Canada and look at the problems which have developed due to the lack of co-ordination between government Departments. I am now speaking specifically about federal government Departments.

This morning we all heard a prime example of a government decision to cut back VIA Rail passenger service between Vancouver and Jasper. From talking with tour operators in British Columbia I know that we lost millions upon millions of dollars of Japanese business because of that one simple decision by the Department of Transport to cut back VIA Rail Service without any thought whatsoever to how it was going to affect tourism. We lost \$40 million in the Japanese traffic alone. We lost \$10 million in the small community of Jasper,

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Alberta. We simply cannot continue to have one government Department making decisions which affect the industry of tourism so adversely.

I will give you another example, Mr. Speaker. For years preceding 1982, Prince Edward Island was advertising and promoting itself as the world centre for the giant bluefin tuna. We were getting to the point where people were recognizing us as the world centre for giant bluefin tuna. We were catching bluefin tuna as big as 1,500 pounds. We had a quota of 673 bluefin tuna in the Gulf, I believe. However, there was no specific quota set for the sports fishery. Whenever the 673 tuna had been caught the season was closed. The very day that someone got off an airplane in Charlottetown from South Africa, the quota was reached and the season was closed.

Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, what that did to the hundreds and thousands of people whom we were trying to influence to come to P.E.I. to catch tuna? Can you imagine what that person told his friends when he went back home after spending thousands of dollars to come to P.E.I. to catch the big bluefin tuna and arriving on the day that the season was closed? The Department of Fisheries unilaterally cut off the season. There goes another sector of the industry of tourism on P.E.I.

I will give you another prime example of how a Department of the federal Government can adversely affect a sector of the industry. In 1975 CN Marine decided to raise the price for recreation vehicles. It raised the price to 44 cents a foot. That price, compared to the charge of 14 cents a foot for a commercial vehicle, is definite discrimination against the tourist industry. As a result, 25 per cent of the camping grounds in P.E.I. that were in business in 1975 are closed. No sensible person would pay three times the charge for a recreational vehicle as compared to that paid for a regular commercial vehicle. They would not do it simply as a matter of principle.

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All of the camping grounds that are still operating in Prince Edward Island have reduced their staff and most have reduced the hours that the remaining staff works. Hundreds of jobs have gone down the drain because of an isolated decision made in one Department of Government without any consideration at all for the implications it would have on the tourist industry.

We must do something about the conditions in the federal Government and its Departments. There should be co-ordination between the Departments so that they know beforehand whether a decision by one Department will adversely affect the tourism industry.

Our Party believes that a co-ordinated effort of this kind is necessary if the tourist industry is to be brought back to where it should be. We advocate that there be someone in each federal government Department to scrutinize what is happening so that he can warn people who are making a decision that it may affect tourism and costs hundreds of thousands of jobs and therefore should be reconsidered. We believe very strongly in this approach and propose that the Government consider