

Income Tax

making. I would imagine that defence expenditures fall in the last category.

But making those decisions on behalf of society as a whole is the basic principle of a responsible democratic Government elected as such by the people. Any attempt to avoid making those decisions, or some of them anyway, flies in the face of the principle of responsible Government.

We are not trying to say that citizens should not be interested in knowing how their tax dollars are spent.

We wish more people would show that kind of interest: our democracy would be stronger for it. However we must make a distinction between defence—or the acceptable promotion of defence, or the condemnation of that defence, of certain categories of public expenditures—and the fact that we can decide not to finance a given Government project through certain tax mechanisms that may be simpler.

Given our democratic Government system, the rules must be the same for everybody. We are not talking about a selective Government for certain individuals, by certain individuals, and in the interest of certain individuals.

We are sure that the sponsor of the motion did not draft it with a view to upsetting the well established nature of our system of Government. No doubt he is sincerely trying to draw the attention of the House to the vital importance of organizations working at the praiseworthy promotion of world peace in our troubled society. However, the so-called practical procedure which he advocates to reach that goal runs directly counter to important if not basic principles of our taxation system that are based on the responsibility of a government elected by the people. I think that it is a vital point which deserves to be stated at this time and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to do so this evening.

● (1840)

[English]

Mr. David Kilgour (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands (Mr. Manly) might be summarized by saying that the Government would establish a registry of national and international organizations involved in peace research and education and basically allow you and me, Mr. Speaker, as taxpayers, to transfer a portion of our tax to one or more of these organizations, such amount to be calculated on the percentage of the national Budget allocated to defence. I know the Hon. Member is a sincere Hon. Member, albeit wrong.

The premise of the motion is that we should get out of NATO and NORAD—both New Democratic Party policies, I believe. Its premise is that we should forgive and forget events such as have happened in eastern Poland in 1939, events with respect to Finland and parts of Poland in 1940, events in Latvia in 1940, in Lithuania in 1940, in Estonia in 1940, in

parts of Romania in 1940, in a part of China in 1944, in part of Czechoslovakia in 1945—

Mr. Manly: Read the motion.

Mr. Kilgour:—in eastern and northeastern Prussia in 1945, in Japan, the Sakhalin Islands, in 1945. The Hon. Member wants us to forget basically what happened in Mongolia in 1921, in Bulgaria in 1944 and 1945, in Hungary in 1944 and 1945, in Poland in 1944, 1945, in Romania from 1945 to 1947, in Czechoslovakia in 1948, in the German Democratic Republic in 1949, in North Vietnam in 1945 to 1954.

Mr. Skelly: What about the Peloponnesian wars? Have you anything on that?

Mr. Kilgour: I might note, Mr. Speaker, that the two Hon. Members of the New Democratic Party who are present to support the Hon. Member's motion obviously find it painful that I recite these matters—

Mr. Skelly: Not painful, ridiculous.

Mr. Kilgour:—but I assure them that I intend to continue recounting them.

Mr. Manly: Irrelevant.

Mr. Kilgour: They want us to forgive and forget Cuba in 1970—

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe that the rule of relevancy should apply to Private Members' Hour as well as to other hours in this House. My motion specifically calls for the establishment of a registry of national and international organizations involved in peace research and education and allows for the allocation of a certain portion of income tax to those organizations. It says nothing about having to forget past instances of history. I wish that the Hon. Member would confine his remarks to the motion at hand.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I understand very well the point the Hon. Member is trying to make. The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Relations (Mr. Kilgour), I believe, is linking his remarks to the other aspect of peace; war.

Mr. Skelly: A very tenuous link.

Mr. Kilgour: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They want us to forget Afghanistan in 1979, 1980 to 1985 and longer, South Yemen in 1970, Angola in 1975—although I think in fairness, that matter perhaps is still open to dispute—and Ethiopia in 1976. Perhaps the two gentlemen from the New Democratic Party should go and see the movie "The Killing Fields" one day.

Mr. Manly: I've seen it. Think about that movie.

Mr. Kilgour: We all think about things, don't we?