

Income Tax Act

increase the amount of revenue being raised from the corporate tax system. Other measures will ensure that financial institutions will also pay their fair share of tax.

This Bill also introduces a general anti-avoidance rule to remove the tax advantage of transactions that involve misuse of the tax law. These are carried out not primarily for bona fide purposes but for the simple avoidance of income tax.

Bill C-139 also brings forward a limited number of changes not directly related to the tax reform proposals of last June. First, it contains the income tax changes announced in the February 1988 Budget. The most significant are the increases in the child care expense deduction and the increase of the refundable Child Tax Credit to implement the taxation aspect of the national strategy on child care. I should also mention that the amendments to tighten up the rules used to determine whether corporations are associated with one another for the purposes of the Income Tax Act are also in this Bill.

Second, this Bill includes amendments announced on September 25 and October 1, 1987. The former prevents tax avoidance through the abuse of the rules relating to capital dividend and dividend refunds, and the latter implements changes to the taxation of trusts and their beneficiaries.

[*Translation*]

Bill C-139 is an important piece of legislation. Many measures in it have been in the public eye for over a year. The Bill has benefited from extensive input from the standing committees and taxpayers. An earlier draft of the Bill has been scrutinized by the committees and by tax professionals to ensure that it was technically satisfactory. This has been an important and useful process, but it is time consuming. The result is the complete and technically sound bill we have before us today.

[*English*]

I do not think I can exaggerate the importance of this Bill to the tax system, the economy and, above all, to the average Canadian. Our tax reform measures as embodied in the Bill now before us will contribute to building a stronger, more just and more vibrant economy. This is comprehensive reform. This is reform for the average Canadian as well as for the economy as a whole. These measures are based on a solid assessment of today's needs and will help us build a better tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

As evidence of the Government's commitment to assist further speedy, thorough examination of the Bill, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has agreed to appear before the House Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs as soon as possible, to help them begin their final consideration of the measures in the Bill.

[*English*]

I am proud of tax reform. I am proud of the provisions of this Bill. It is historic in its scope. It is vital in what it means to the future of Canada. I call on Members of this House to

respond to my own sense of urgency and the urgency felt by hundreds of thousands of taxpayers, both individuals and corporations, and proceed quickly with this Bill.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1630)

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it is appropriate to ask for unanimous consent to call it five o'clock. The House Leader said that there may be such a disposition, but I am in your hands in that regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre on the same point of order.

Mr. Cassidy: Not on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on debate.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe there was unanimous consent among the Parliamentary House Leaders for the Chair to call it five o'clock and to proceed now to consideration of Private Members' Business. All three Parties gave their consent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm what the Parliamentary Secretary just said. The Leader of the Government in the House consulted us, and it was understood that once the Minister had finished his comments, the debate on Bill C-139 would be suspended and we would proceed to Private Members' Business because, as you know, Mr. Speaker, the Official Opposition which is supposed to follow the Minister, is according to our custom entitled to forty minutes. I believe that tomorrow, the Government intends to call Bill C-139 at eleven o'clock, to resume debate.

Mr. Grisé: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. As the Liberal Whip, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier), just said, there is unanimous consent for reverting to the same Bill at eleven o'clock to resume debate, so that the Official Opposition critic will have the same speaking time the Minister had today.

[*English*]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, that may well have been discussed between the Liberal and Conservative Parties but I, as the Deputy House Leader of the New Democratic Party, was not consulted on calling it five o'clock after the Minister's speech. Not having been consulted on that, we did not agree to it. I assume we are going to continue until five o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the Member and the House Leader should consult at this time.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding that the Hon. Minister was going to speak until very close to five