

Income Tax

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that is not fair; it is unjust and it is not desirable because if there are those who are going to be able to produce and transport their products at a lower price than the cost of production in my area, then there must be some government intervention and compensation to assist the companies in my area to survive.

I am not complaining about those that have received assistance to meet needs elsewhere, but I am complaining about the fact that there is no compensation for those in my area that will have to bear the brunt and perhaps close their doors, lay-off their workers, and do goodness knows what else. I suggest that the minister, in considering all these situations, give consideration on the basis of justice to the matters which I have brought to their attention. This is not only true in the agricultural industries, it is true in other industries as well. I brought this to the attention of the government on a previous occasion.

When other secondary industries are finding it impossible to compete in the markets, on the prairies and central Canada, because of the unfair transportation rates existing at the present time, even though the government has said time and time again that it is going to do something about it, it has not done so, and the injustice continues to exist.

We have the continuing high interest rates; we have the shrinking dollar. What amazes me in the face of all these problems confronting the Canadian people is the increasing burden of taxation, national debt and interest charges, and all the rest. The government is going merrily on its way spending more and more of the taxpayer's dollars. I am not going to say it is all wasted or squandered, I am going to say this, however, that a great deal of it is unwise, unnecessary, and it is high time this government and the Minister of Finance came to their senses and looked realistically at the problems confronting the nation. If they do not do this, we will face greater and greater problems in the future than we have up to the present time, and everybody knows that they are bad enough now. According to the spokesman of the government party we can expect them to get worse as the days come and go.

The ministers state—they continue to throw it across the House—that the opposition are not making any suggestions as to what can be done and how to solve the basic problems. But I say, Mr. Speaker, that if they had been listening to the speeches made by my leader, and by my colleagues through these past months, there is plenty of grist there to keep their mills going a long time. If these suggestions and recommendations were adopted and if implemented, they would find a great many of the problems would be solved.

In order to assist in the building up of the economy in the production of jobs, we have suggested that there should be, as I pointed out before, a substantial cut in the federal sales tax on certain products. Sometimes the people of the country do not realize just how much is being charged in the form of taxes. They look at a product and they say, "Surely it doesn't cost that much to produce this thing", not realizing the high rate of tax which is applied on that product. Not only that, but on the various levels—below the manufacturer's level there are

others that add a tax, so there is tax upon tax upon tax until a great deal of the dollar is spent not on the product, but in tax paid on the product. Therefore, we suggest there should be a substantial cut in the federal sales tax on certain products. This would assist in the development of our economy, and produce job opportunities for our people.

Another proposal was that there should be restraint in the growth of the government and in government expenditures. I do not have to go back over what I have said before, it has been said so many times in the House now. The government has said that it is going to maintain strict restraints in the carrying out of its functions and in the spending of the taxpayer's money. But the people of Canada are looking in vain for any indication that the government is exercising any restraint in any respect as far as government expenditures are concerned. No matter how much is said about it, no matter how much or how loudly it is trumpeted by the spokesman of the government that they are exercising restraint—by their fruits shall ye know them—and when we look at the records that are before us we cannot see where restraint is being carried out in any respect whatsoever.

There are many other suggestions that have been made. A government formed by the Progressive Conservative party would move in the direction of providing additional incentives to assist the small business community to grow, develop, and provide the services and goods required by the Canadian people.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please, I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. He may continue with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the so-called budget that was introduced last spring leaves a great deal to be desired. Yesterday I raised a question in the House in respect of the possibility of there being a committee of the House meet with the negotiators who are going to discuss and advise in respect of what is possible and what is good for the agricultural industry, particularly as it relates to horticultural products. I sincerely hope we receive from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) a positive answer on that question. It is my understanding that it could be very beneficial, and that farming organizations and the Canadian Horticultural Council are quite prepared to exchange information, make recommendations, and to give strength to the negotiators who are going to try to improve the basic business climate in Canada, but particularly as it relates to the horticultural industry.

There were recommendations made to the Tariff Board which was asked in 1973 to study the requirements of the horticultural industry and its processed products, and report to the government. Yesterday part two of that report became available to those interested in agriculture. It reached my desk last night. Four years after the initial reference to the Tariff