

Income Tax

his errors and sins: he should not be pretending the enthusiastic acceptance by eight ministers when none of them accepted it with any enthusiasm that we know of, and when everyone who spoke publicly—every premier I have quoted—was definitely against this unwarranted intrusion, this political interference in the rights of the provinces, and in an ineffective manner, ineffective because now it has been admitted that there have been only 2,800 applications received, or a figure which is only a figure 800 greater than the anticipated daily inflow is supposed to be.

The government is now going to change the grant system to apply to pre-1931 houses in places like Ontario, and so on, instead of pre-1921. I have not time to go into all the inadequacies of this program—but it was a cod, and the people of Canada saw it was a cod and they are not responding to it. When they get their mingy grant after fixing their home—which I think is a maximum of \$350—they are taxed on it: it is added to their income. If they do not live in Nova Scotia or P.E.I., it is added to their income. But if they live in those two provinces it is not added to their income. Ye Gods, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian people will certainly be flipping their lids and losing their senses if they re-elect a government that will try to put an atrocity like that across on the public.

● (1642)

They talk about the unity crisis in the province of Quebec. That is only half the problem. The whole unity crisis is caused by the heavy-handed, ham-fisted approach of this government—autocratic, arrogant, overbearing, covering up. I will not bother with the rest of the adjectives, because the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) will come here tomorrow and complain.

An hon. Member: "Featherbedding."

Mr. Crosbie: Yes, featherbedding as well. Mr. Speaker, that covers the insulation grants and the inaccurate forecast of revenue. We used to think that the Department of Finance was first-class and had first-class people. I suppose, I hope they still do. Here is a little province like Newfoundland caught \$20 million short this year from the estimates in its budget because it was given a wrong estimate by the government of Canada, the Department of Finance, on what it was going to get in corporation tax and personal income tax this year. They give projections each year to the province, and we all know the tremendous amount which goes to Ontario.

Now, our minister of finance, who has a hard job to rub two nickels together, has to find \$20 million more—and he is going to have a current account deficit in Newfoundland. There is something very, very wrong. There is something wrong in the Department of Finance's forecasting. I do not think I have time to get into the income tax system, but I will return to that in committee.

I now return to the case of John C. Doyle. I will take it clause by clause in committee because that case needs rectification. I do not have time today to get into it. The Supreme Court of Canada has had two appeals which have been pend-

[Mr. Crosbie.]

ing for seven years. The Department of National Revenue and the Department of Justice did not do anything about pursuing them because of Mr. Doyle's connections, apparent connections with the government or the party that forms the government. One of these was brought out three weeks ago as a result of my bringing it up, and the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed it. They did not even withhold judgment. That will show you something about gross negligence. There is a man, a fugitive from justice, who owes the government of Canada \$3.5 million for income tax for 1950 and 1954. He has fooled around and has been allowed to get away with owing that money. He has not paid, and he has not put up adequate security. He has been allowed to do that from 1950 to 1954—27 years in one case and 23 years in another. He lost his income tax appeal board case and his exchequer appeal court case in 1970. The government did not do anything for seven years until I raised it in this House. One of these cases has now been heard and the judges have dismissed it. That will show you how serious the appeal was.

There is one still to come for a larger amount of money—\$3.5 million. The person involved is now in Panama, a Panamanian citizen. The government has not adequate security. However, I will go into this matter when I have more time. I object immensely to favouritism for somebody who is a friend of the government. When the ordinary taxpayer is reassessed, he has to put up the money at that point or the department will haul it right out of his pocket. Or the department will slap you right into jail. If you are an ordinary taxpayer, you have to put up security, bank guarantees and bonds. But Mr. John C. Doyle—and the right hon. member for Prince Albert explained this in his book—I do not have it here today—

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I listened with a great deal of interest to the previous speaker. I would like to make one or two comments. First of all, the hon. member attributed the wealth, the well doing of the province of Alberta, to a great Conservative government. If he uses the comparison that the Conservatives are responsible for the prosperity of Alberta, I wonder what he says about the depression in the province of Newfoundland, also led by a provincial Conservative government. Does he attribute that, sir, to the provincial Conservative government? No. He says, of course, that is the federal government. But where there is prosperity in Canada, that is a result of a provincial government, especially if it is a Conservative government.

Mr. Speaker, hon. members and those who see these proceedings will realize the foolishness of a statement of that kind. Surely the government of Canada is composed of provin-