

Government Orders

set of tax increases through the GST to the ordinary, everyday person in this country.

We have seen, for instance, \$100,000 in capital gains tax given to people who are rich enough to get capital gains increases from the stock market, the sales of yachts, the sales of whatever speculative investments they have kept. We have seen that come from this government. We have seen a decrease come from this government from 34 per cent to 29 per cent in the income tax rate for upper income people.

That is almost as bad as the decrease in income tax levels for upper income Canadians which the Liberals brought in before this government. Both these two parties here, which are supporting this piece of flimflam in front of us this afternoon, talk about their concern about the deficit. They created the deficit through the tax breaks that they gave upper income Canadians and large companies in this country.

In this country, we have seen, the statistics are absolutely clear-cut, if we go back to the 1970s, deficits which were sensible and which had some kind of relationship to what the country could pay. We saw deficits which, for instance, from the period 1966 up to the period 1975 did not at any stage exceed 1.4 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product. There were very small deficits in relation to our national income.

We then saw a Liberal government which came into office and started to increase expenditures dramatically. At the time, it started to decrease tax revenues from large companies and from upper income Canadians. The result was that the deficit levels in this country escalated dramatically.

As of 1975, the total level of debt in this country was \$47 billion. That is not a small level. It is not something massive that we would have to be as terribly concerned with as we are today. In 1975, the debt was \$47 billion.

By the end of the fiscal year 1984, for virtually all that period the Liberals were in power, the deficit had increased such that our national debt was \$175 billion, almost four times what it was just nine years previously. It was almost four times higher.

The Conservatives came into power in 1984. They wanted to make sure that they could give some tax breaks to upper income Canadians, so they cut the tax

rates even further. They decreased the level of taxation for large scale corporations in this country.

• (1740)

If we look at the revenues which have been received, they have gone down dramatically from large scale corporations, while tax rates for individual Canadians have of course gone up dramatically.

But not to be outdone by the Liberals with respect to deficits, if we take the end of the fiscal year 1984 where the deficit was \$175 billion, let us compare that with the end of the fiscal year 1990-91; in other words, the end of the most recent fiscal year under the Conservatives. As at the end of this most recent fiscal year, the deficit is \$408.5 billion.

An hon. member: The debt.

Mr. Langdon: The debt is \$408.5 billion. I must admit that it does take some doing to parallel what the Liberals did in terms of increasing debt, but the Conservatives have done it. The Liberals increased our national debt in their last nine years in office.

Mr. Speaker, I think, if you checked your time, you would see that I have more than a minute.

To make this point quite clear to people, what we have is \$47 billion as debt in 1975, and that increased to \$175 billion by the end of the fiscal year 1983-84. Then, taking the Conservative period, we see that increasing from \$175 billion to \$408.5 billion. In other words, a much greater increase in our national debt in seven years of Conservative government than there was in nine years of Liberal government.

The government comes before us today and says that here is a piece of legislation that will somehow magically start to do something about the problem. I say to people across the country that this piece of legislation which is in front of us, does absolutely nothing about the deficit. It does absolutely nothing about the national debt. All it does is try to sugar-coat a bad tax, the goods and services tax.

That is why, unlike the Liberal Party, we will continue to oppose the goods and services tax. Unlike the Reform Party, we will continue to oppose the goods and services tax, even if there is this attempt at sugar-coating. We will vote against this legislation because we think Canadians deserve to have things put in front of them in a straightforward, clear and honest way. This piece of