

Government Orders

at all than pay the tax and get some of their money back and expect to feel grateful for that.

That is the kind of convoluted logic of somebody who is trying to get a cabinet post rather than fight for the people in Newfoundland who are going to have this tax piled on to 12 per cent in Newfoundland.

I do not want to miss any other province in this country, but I want to spend a little time in Newfoundland.

• (1640)

The hon. member says that the government has the support of the citizens of Newfoundland to shove another 7 per cent down their throats. With high unemployment in that province, this disastrous government with its free trade policies and its fisheries disaster will give them the gift of a 7 per cent tax. They will get a free form so that they can ask for some of their money back.

An hon. member: Shame.

An hon. member: Isn't that wonderful.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, This is the kind of guy who insults the intelligence of every Newfoundlander with that kind of speech.

Mr. Siddon: Don't be silly.

Mr. Barrett: "Don't be silly", he says. I will come to you in British Columbia in a minute. Just give me a minute.

I want to move to the fact that I am shocked and dismayed. I want to ask that member: Do you speak for the back-benchers from Alberta? They have been deathly silent on this matter. I do not include the Chair. The Chair has other responsibilities. All other back-benchers from Alberta are yet to open their yaps over this tax because they are scared to death as to how they are going to explain this tax to Albertans. They have never had a sales tax. They voted Tory, and now they are getting a sales tax.

Do you know who is laughing about this, Mr. Speaker? The Liberals are laughing. They know very well that when they read the polls, they think are going to be re-elected, and that the Tories are doing their dirty work for them by passing this tax right now.

I warn the people of Alberta that the speech by that member is the kind of speech made by the Tory-Liberal alliance that we are witnessing. It is nothing but a

Tory-Liberal alliance addressing itself to the same service of the same constituency, the rich, and the hell with the rest of the people in this country. That is what it is.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Barrett: Those Liberals are laughing at the Tories from Alberta. They are laughing at the Tories from Newfoundland, and that member speaks without recognizing that he is serving the cause of the Liberal party. He is a back-bencher and does not realize that there is a tacit coalition between those two old line parties to ram this tax through.

I have seen many bright young men and women come into politics who are called one-timers. They are described as those earnest young people who come here and support a government. They were brought in under the American expression of being swept into office with the flotsam and jetsam of a huge majority. That member is part of the flotsam and jetsam that came in with a new majority. He will be out in the next election, four years of his life sacrificed for that tacit coalition to serve special interests in this country, and he will not even get a pension.

I am a social worker. Do not come to me when you are down the tube, looking for help. It is your own fault. You are over 21. You should have known better than to get tangled up with that gang over there, even if the hon. member did work for the former minister. It is his own fault. I have enough of a case load without worrying over him.

It is the Alberta back-benchers who I am worried about. It is getting so bad that they do not even go home on the weekends. Those who do go home on the weekends in Alberta do not give anybody their phone number. If they are recognized on the streets, they say they are thinking of leaving the caucus.

Two members have actually served notice that they may speak against this bill. They have to do it quietly. They think they have a chance to get into cabinet. They are trying to balance their position on the GST and their ambition. Just think, one of them could succeed the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What an ambition!

I want to know whether or not every single back-bencher from Alberta supports this legislation.

Mr. Nystrom: Yes or no.