

Income Tax Act

told me that he was depressed by the attitude of some of the students. He spoke about the "give up" attitude of the students because of the high unemployment rate that we are experiencing in Canada. He said that many of the students felt they could not get jobs even though they were well trained. This made them feel very depressed, and the hon. member expressed his concern to me.

I just wanted to reach the heart of the hon. member for Don Valley and to tell him that as a result of this bill I will have to go back to the riding of Broadview and tell a working man with an income of \$4,000, a wife and three children, that when this bill passes he will receive the princely sum of \$1.09. I imagine that the hon. member for Don Valley will be able to go back to his riding and tell the people there who have an income of \$30,000 or more that they will receive at least \$150 or more. I am sure that after the hon. member for Don Valley had expressed his concern for the working man in Broadview who would only get \$1.09, whereas the hon. member's friends would get over \$150, he would be persuaded to vote for the amendment.

I am not only relating my remarks to the working men in Broadview; I am relating them to all working people. If the hon. member for Parkdale were here he would probably agree with me, as would some of my Conservative friends, such as the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys in whose constituency there is a high unemployment rate and where wages are depressed. I am sure that they would like to go home and tell the working people in their constituencies that, if the amendment presented by the NDP had passed, they could have at least \$40 as a tax credit.

I think the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who stood in his place yesterday and asked the Minister of Justice about guns and how we should register them to protect the public—and I agree with him—would also agree with me that it would be far better to say that the people of Quebec should at least enjoy a minimum benefit of \$40, so that the people of Quebec should at least enjoy a minimum benefit of \$40, so that they would not have to buy guns or have a revolution, and we would not have to pass another War Measures Act.

I am sure that the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, who understands the feelings of the people in his riding, realizes how necessary it is to pass this amendment. I could continue by referring to the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton, who will be saying on Sunday "Blessed are the poor". If he thinks that the poor are blessed, surely he could give who have an income of \$4,000 or less more than \$1. I suspect he would want to give them a Christmas charity of a minimum of \$40.

I notice that the hon. member for Essex is also present, and I remember the statesmanlike speech that he made.

Mr. Whelan: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I want to tell the hon. member for Broadview that I think I know as much about poverty as he does. When he says that my views and his views are similar and that I have concern for the poor, let me tell him that I was raised on a mother's allowance. I have heard nothing but garbage from his party this afternoon. If we all took part in this debate none of us would get out of here. The hon. member is simply taking advantage of the situation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Gilbert: I want to assure the hon. member for Essex that I am sure that he has experienced poverty. But I also have experienced poverty.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Intellectual poverty.

Mr. Gilbert: I can say that we could shorten this debate if the government accepted the amendment and were charitable at Christmas time. What I was really going to say about the hon. member for Essex is that he made a statesmanlike speech with regard to credit unions, and I compliment him for it. I remember him saying that it was one of the most major issues that he had ever faced as a Member of Parliament. Mr. Chairman, I should like to tell the hon. member that this is a major issue which he must face. The question of poverty in Canada may not be striking, because it only involves \$160 million, but it indicates an attitude with regard to the working people.

• (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Essex rises on a point of order, and I hope this time it will be a legitimate point of order.

Mr. Whelan: It is a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I should like to tell the hon. member for Broadview that my concern for the poor is as great as his, and my record of dealing with the poor is as great as his, but I do not think we have to be as vocal as they have been this afternoon to prove it. We have done a lot for the poor since I have been a Member of Parliament. The poor of this country are treated better than those in any country in the world.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: That is a very good point of debate but it is certainly not a point of order.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you, Mr. Chairman; I appreciate your protection. However, if the hon. member wants to make a speech he can do so, and if his concern is as great as ours he will vote for the amendment. The hon. member for Don Valley said that this tax reform will not eliminate poverty. That is quite true, but this amendment is a step in the right direction. We in the New Democratic Party would go much further than the government has in regard to tax reform; we would bring in other bills to make this a better country for all Canadians.

Mr. Allmand: Why don't you do it in Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Order, please. We should try to debate this matter in the Christmas spirit and display a good sense of humour. This would assist the Chair in properly conducting the debate.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Chairman, I enjoyed the remarks of hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. I am sure he expresses concern, but I am waiting to see how he votes on this amendment. He certainly presents an attitude of concern to the workers of this country, but we will put him to the real test when the vote is taken.