

Excise Tax Act

Mr. Deans: I am a very, very ordinary Canadian.

Mr. Brisco: Just what is his status? They are the class act in town. If they want to establish classes in Canada, let them go to it.

Mr. Keeper: I can tell you that you are ordinary.

Mr. Brisco: Thank you.

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco).

Mr. Brisco: Not to my speech, you didn't. You weren't here.

Mr. Deans: I was watching you from the lobby where I was attempting to work out some arrangements for tomorrow.

I suggest to the Hon. Member that perhaps it would be helpful if he understood the process that we go through here. For example, the very matters we are discussing are only before the House because, in essence, we agreed to have them here. We recognize that they are of value. These matters were not in the original Bill and we accepted that to include the rebates for the very people he is suggesting require them was a useful step. Therefore we allowed the Bill to be withdrawn by unanimous consent and reintroduced the Bill with those rebates there so that those people could get those benefits.

I say to the Hon. Member that it would be helpful if he understood that our role is to point out problem areas. For those areas which we do not deal with, one might presume from time to time that we at least favour if not support them.

However, with respect to his comments, those provisions could not have been in the Bill unless we agreed they be there.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I find the Hon. Member's remarks rather strange, that he should make such an interjection on the basis of my comments.

Mr. Deans: Why?

Mr. Brisco: I have no argument with the House process. I was speaking about the support of—

Mr. Deans: We said it would not get there if we did not support it.

Mr. Brisco: I think I have the floor. If the Hon. Member wants to have another shot at me, let him have another shot. If the Hon. Member wants to debate the issue he can go back to my former speech and read that. I see that he has now left his seat. He really does not want to listen to the debate.

Mr. Deans: I am listening to you.

Mr. Brisco: The fact of the matter remains that when a positive element is introduced by the Government there is very little recognition. The Opposition deals solely in the negative and that is the bottom line.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) left his seat to go and talk to the

Government House Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn) in order, perhaps, that the Government House Leader would be good enough to talk to the Hon. Member so that he may better understand the proceedings in the House before he stands up and makes such comments.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Does the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Keeper) have another question?

Mr. Keeper: Another question, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member pointed out that this Bill includes some rebates for farmers and fishermen. It is obvious that we have facilitated the passage of those rebates in the House. That is certainly positive support for those measures.

However, it would not be necessary to have rebates if the Government would not continue to increase sales tax in the first place. That is another part of this legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Does the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) care to answer?

Mr. Keeper: He gave up.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Does the Hon. Member for Edmonton West (Mr. Dorin) wish to debate?

Mr. Dorin: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe that the Speaker called the question prior to the Hon. Member standing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I want to tell the Hon. Member that as long as I keep reading, until I come to the yeas and nays the question is not called. Therefore, I recognize the Hon. Member for Edmonton West.

Mr. Murray Dorin (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak in this debate because I believe it concerns several important matters. Not only are these matters of concern to all Canadians, they are important to my constituents as well.

The first matter concerns the proposed 1 per cent sales tax increase. This was originally introduced by the previous Government as the special recovery tax. I found it rather ironic that the Liberal Government would propose a future sales tax in order to pay for their current expenditures. This means that we are in a position where we must impose this tax as a new Government to pay for those expenditures. I believe we are properly using our authority to put these measures through. I hope it can be done in a timely and orderly manner.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments?