

Income Tax Act

tax relief but all I can see amounts to little more than one inch forward. Being charitable to the minister and his minions, I say that if there is a small step forward in this bill I would like to have them explain it to me and then I would apologize. But I see nothing in it except that each year several thousand poor farmers will have to go to the wall, sell out to corporate farms, and those corporate farms in turn will find themselves in a bind, owing money to the farm machine companies and to the government itself, with \$75,000 loans being given out here, there and all over the place, with no guarantee of prices, no guarantee of markets and no relief from overtaxation.

One of my colleagues gave figures the other day, which I have no reason to disbelieve, showing that the three levels of government through their departments are taking 46 cents out of every Canadian dollar. The people who are doing this think they have some God-given right to spend the money we have earned. No such right exists anywhere, under natural law or any other law.

I ask hon. members opposite to read further into this book. They would do better to read it instead of heckling me. I ask them to read these 26 pages, and then I ask any one of them to get to his feet and say that this is not a complete blueprint for the socialization of agriculture and every other industry in Canada. It is there for them to read. I would like to know how many of them have read this book written by their own chief. If they have not the courage to read it, then at least let them have the courage to listen and I will read it to them.

I now wish to deal with the proposals concerning the basic herd. There is a pretence made under section 28 and other sections to retain the basic herd. But after you have read the bill thoroughly you know that the basic herd is doomed. The government says, "Oh, don't take away the basic herd right away. Leave the pretence there. Don't do things any faster than the people will stand." That is in the book. That is the strategy. Do it slowly, inch by inch. Cut off one toe at a time. Don't take away the basic herd at one go. Just stop the young farmer coming up. Stop the son or grandson from acquiring a basic herd. Let it be spelled out in the statute books that nobody will be allowed to start a homestead in Canada in the future and raise his herd from 10 to 20, then to 30 and get it up to the level demanded in other parts of this bill. The government demands large herds but it will not allow new herds to be built up.

An hon. Member: Using the old buggy-whip.

Mr. Bigg: If I had an old buggy-whip I would know where to use it to good advantage. My mother once had a buggy-whip which she kept in the kitchen for those who did not pull their weight. I suggest that hon. members opposite should do their homework. They should fill their own woodbox, and they can start by reading this book. If they want copies, I will buy them.

This is supposed to be the age when we all come together. This is the age when the government consults the farmers. What do the farm unions say about the basic herd? The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, the Alberta Farmers' Union, the National Farmers' Union, the cattlebreeders associations of Alberta and of Saskatchewan are unanimous in saying the basic herd is essential to a viable farm.

Where is the consultation? Who will be consulted by the government? To whom will the government listen? Whenever there is an opportunity to consult and listen, what kind of action do we get? We get the same kind of action as we had with regard to the grain stabilization act, when the ministers of agriculture from the prairie provinces came down here to discuss Bill C-244. What happened? The government immediately panicked into emergency measures. There was a threat of blackmail—\$100 million or nothing. But the government was scared off that by the action of four small farmers who decided to test in the courts of Canada whether an arrogant minister of the Crown had the right to break the law. And thank goodness, at half past 11—or was it a quarter to 12 on the political time clock—the government decided it was just as well to back down. It knew the people of Canada were not yet ready to be bullied into the corner.

Mr. Mahoney: Is this under section 28?

Mr. Bigg: Yes, under section 28, section 29 and the rest of this preposterous document. It is all socialism in disguise, and very poor disguise. Mr. Chairman, hon. members to my left in the NDP are at least honest about their position. They say openly, "We are socialists. We believe in taking over all means of production. We had our Regina manifesto. We nailed our colours to the mast and we said, "This is where we stand."

The government does not always tell us where it stands. It pretends to be in favour of tax reform but all it is trying to do is take over the agricultural industry. That is what this bill and the amendments are all about. How are you going to do it? When are you going to do it? In what miserable, creeping ways are you going to do it? I do not like any part of it. The basic herd proposal is only one part of it, Mr. Chairman. It is not tax reform at all; it is confiscation by statute.

We have just under six pounds of amendments, and still the bill is unclear. We are taking a great leap which means that it will no longer be possible for any free enterpriser in Canada to own a piece of land and make a living. With inflation and rocketing costs, the small entrepreneur farmer will not be allowed to remain in business—and all in the name of efficiency! Where in this bill is the incentive to enlarge, to produce more and cheaper food, if the farmer is not allowed to retain a modest income?

• (9.30 p.m.)

It is well known that the small family farm cannot afford to incorporate. Most family farmers are so deeply in debt already as a result of rising costs of machinery and the drop in prices of products that the only alternatives are to sell out or move onto a larger farm. Farm unions are discouraged. The government prefers things this way, with the propaganda from the eggheads—

Mr. Broadbent: What? A question of privilege.

Mr. Bigg: My friend, you must have a head before you can call it an egg. This worship of bigness will not pay; it is not succeeding. It is true that people are leaving the farm, but food is not cheaper nor is farming more efficient. The farmer is not getting out of debt; indeed, his debts are larger and his problems greater. If the farm