

Income Tax Act

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I will meet the hon. member outside.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The Chair would like from the hon. member a clear indication whether he will accept a question.

Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has something to discuss, I will discuss the matter with him later.

Mr. Benjamin: It's just a question, Len.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard).

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest, of course, to my friend the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo (Mr. Marchand). We hear from him so seldom that it is all the more refreshing and interesting when he speaks. May I say to him through you, Mr. Speaker, that when I get letters from a credit union they are usually classified as "friendly reminders". Apropos the provisions of the bill relating to credit unions and co-operatives, those of us who have been members of credit union and co-operative movements, for some years are pleased to see that finally some of our views with regard to the damage that certain provisions of the bill will do to credit unions and co-operatives are getting through to some people in authority. Those of us in this House who have been supporters of the credit union and co-operative movements for many years welcome the support of the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo and others in his party on this particular matter. We hope that support will have some effect.

Mr. Whelan: The credit unions and co-operatives were there long before you.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Simply because I believe in something does not mean that I started it. I did not say that, and the hon. member knows it. In view of the hon. member's interjection the other day about being in favour of the Amchitka nuclear blast, I should have thought he would keep quiet.

An hon. Member: He will not get to the Senate now.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I hope that the representations of the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo and others will have a beneficial effect and that the damaging features of the legislation will be taken out of the bill. The interesting thing is that they should be in there in the first place. One wonders at the ignorance displayed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and officials of his department in permitting such legislation to be drafted. Over the years they have listened to groups such as the Equitable Tax Foundation who wish to destroy the credit union movement. I hope that others who have received representations from the credit union and co-operative movements will be as proud of those representations as the hon. member for Kamloops-Cariboo is, and that they will stand up in the House and say so. More importantly, I hope that when these particular clauses come up for consideration

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel).]

they will vote against them. That is the key to it. It is not what we say that counts; it is what we do.

When we look at the entire bill I do not think we ought to consider it from the exclusive standpoint of taxes. I do not think that we should consider taxes merely in terms of what taxes are levied, how they are levied, whom they are levied upon and what the income of an individual is likely to be after tax has been paid. We should look at this matter in a larger sense. Perhaps more than any other piece of legislation introduced before this Parliament or, indeed, introduced before the previous Parliament, this bill reflects largely the economic attitudes of the government, that is to say, the economic attitudes of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) the Minister of Finance and, generally, of the whole Liberal party.

The economy will be affected by the imposition of these taxes. I do not say this unkindly, but I submit that in his younger years, and indeed in the last few years also, the Prime Minister spent a great deal of time travelling around the world and that therefore his concept of the world community and his feeling for situations in other nations are such as to make him a bit hazy and foggy when it comes to nationalism. His experiences make him somewhat foggy as to what should be done to preserve the position of Canada among the nations of the world. He does not know what we need to do to maintain our integrity as Canadians in Canada, what we must do in order to develop our own human resources so that we may have pride in ourselves as human beings, and what we must do in terms of legislative sanctions and objectives set by government so that the resources of the nation can be used to the full advantage of the people within the nation.

We must bear in mind that squandering or exploiting these resources without due concern for mankind is a rather narrow attitude to take. This history and the attitudes of the Prime Minister, I submit, show him to be more a continentalist than a nationalist. This makes him think more in terms of what the attitude of foreign owners will be toward Canada, as distinct from the attitude Canadians ought to have with respect to Canada.

Regretfully, other countries have had a growing involvement in the economy of Canada. Although this matter has been talked about at various times in the past, until three or four years ago there really was not strong public concern about it. There really was not a strong public interest in the matter, nor was there an awareness of the damage that could accrue to Canada if the growth of the foreign control of our economy were permitted to continue. In that sort of atmosphere one can reasonably expect a government to have a similar sort of attitude. When the public is not concerned about something, the government will not be concerned, because governments to a large extent operate as a result of reaction to pressures put upon them by people in the country.

• (9:30 p.m.)

There is a developing public awareness and tremendous concern among farmers, workers and small business people all across the nation about the damaging effects accruing to us from foreign domination of our economy. The government of Canada should realize the fact, be concerned about it and exhibit the degree of pride in Canada that is necessary. This is one of our problems. It