

Excise Tax Act

their isolation and their need to keep in touch. Unfortunately, that was ignored.

I see that my time has ended. I thank you for your attention, Madam Speaker. I will consult with you privately on those figures, but I know that they are correct because not once have they been denied by the Progressive Conservatives. A tax increase of \$1,000 in three and a half years on the average family, including this recent sales tax increase and the other measures contained in Bill C-117, is just not fair.

Mr. Nunziata: I find it amusing that the finance critic for the New Democratic Party should be critical of certain policies of the previous Liberal administration. The Hon. Member is justified in criticizing the present Conservative administration.

The New Democratic Party has a track record in government with regard to economic policies. A few short weeks ago the people of Manitoba defeated the New Democratic Party in a devastating and resounding fashion, to a large extent because of the economic policies of the New Democratic Government in Manitoba. The people of that province said that enough was enough, that they were fed up with the incompetence of the NDP Government, and they turfed out the last remaining NDP Government in Canada. A short while ago the people of British Columbia were fed up with the economic incompetence of the NDP Government there, and turfed it out.

Mr. Cassidy: That was in 1975.

Mr. Nunziata: The Hon. Member states that that was in 1975. That is correct, and never again will the New Democratic Party in the Province of British Columbia ever see the light of day or ever be a government because of its incompetence in managing the financial affairs of that province, and the same applies in Saskatchewan.

My question to the Hon. Member is the following. How can Canadians have trust in the economic policies of the New Democratic Party when that same Party mismanaged the economies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia? Can the Hon. Member, the finance critic for the federal New Democratic Party, explain why the electorate in those three provinces turfed out those governments to a large extent because of their economic policies? Can he explain to the people of Canada how the federal economic policies of the New Democratic Party would be any different from the economic policies of the provincial NDP governments that were defeated?

• (1230)

Mr. Cassidy: It is trust. It seems to me—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre.

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member speaks of trust. It seems to me it was just the other day that I was at a meeting of the Riding Association of the

York South New Democratic Party, which was attended by the man who is presently the Hon. Member for York South and represents the Liberal Party. It seems to me it ill behoves him to speak of such things as trustworthiness when we do not know from one day to the next which Party he is with, whether he is behind his Leader or trying not to stab his Leader in the back.

Mr. Nunziata: Madam Speaker, I have a point of privilege. The Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) is suggesting that I was in attendance at some meeting of the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Cassidy: Yes.

Mr. Nunziata: I hope he will check the record and extend an apology because that is an absolute falsehood and a lie. For the Hon. Member to be so irresponsible as to make such allegations is not surprising in his case, but for the record I would hope he would be a little more honest.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. First, I would like the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) to put some nuance into the accusation that he has just put. The words that have been used are not parliamentary—

Mr. Cassidy: Withdraw.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):—and the Hon. Member knows that. I would like him first to correct that and then we will deal with the other situation, please.

Mr. Nunziata: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has uttered an absolute, unequivocal, and complete falsehood. Until he withdraws that falsehood, I do not intend to withdraw my comments about his dishonesty.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Does the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) have any comment?

Mr. Cassidy: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) used unparliamentary language and he should withdraw it. I am quite prepared to deal with the issue of facts. The issue of fact is that the Hon. Member was a member of the New Democratic Party. He ran on the NDP ticket when he ran for alderman in the Borough of York. It was just the other day, around the same time that the NDP Government was defeated in Manitoba, and that is why I said it was just the other day that I attended meetings where he was involved with the New Democratic Party in the provincial riding or the federal riding of York South.

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to ask the Chair to look at the “blues” later this day to read what was said by the Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata). I was here and I heard the language used. I do not want to pass judgment on that language. I do