

obstruct this legislation. That, Mr. Speaker, is so clear, and that is why we had to bring in a motion for time allocation.

• (1640)

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Perhaps you could remind members that it is unparliamentary to call into question the motives of members of parliament, as the Minister of Finance is now doing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Debate, the hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am not calling into question any member's motives; I am just stating very clearly the motive of the members of the New Democratic Party as stated by themselves. It is very clear. I am not imputing motives or questioning motives. It is fundamentally clear that what they want to do is divert this legislation.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): Of course we do.

Mr. Gauthier: Scrap the tax.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, the members opposite say: "Scrap the tax. Axe the tax". We have every intention of axing the tax. The tax that we are going to axe is a federal sales tax, the manufacturers' sales tax, that has been in place since—

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nault: There won't be a Tory left in Alberta.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Windsor—Lake St. Clair on a point of order.

Mr. McCurdy: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. minister wants to impugn or describe the motives of the New Democratic Party, I ask to defend the interests of the Canadian people, a vast majority of whom oppose this legislation.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, we have here an outburst by a member from Windsor who is saying that the New Democratic Party is protecting the interests of the Canadian people. Let me ask this hon. member why the New Democrats are in support of a tax which holds back Canadian exports. In Windsor there are many exporters. In southwestern Ontario—

Time Allocation

An hon. member: That's not true.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The hon. member says it is not true. Time and again, the members of the automotive industry, the chemical industry, the other elements of the manufacturing industry, the mining sector, the forest products sector, the basic industries, the strength of our economy, have all said that the existing tax is providing a hidden tax that is holding back their ability to export into other countries and create jobs and economic wealth here in Canada.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): That's not the way to go.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): On the other side, there are people in the economy, Canadian producers who are competing against imports—

Mr. Nault: It's good for tourists too!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):—and these companies have to pay one-third more tax than the imports against which they compete. Why is it that the hon. member from Windsor and the member for Broadview—Greenwood persist in supporting a tax that is holding back our economy? It makes no sense for them to do this.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): They want a fair tax.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. Minister of Finance has the floor.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I want to also draw to the attention of members opposite that there was a royal commission in 1940; there was another study in 1956; there was the Carter Commission in 1966; there was a further report in 1973; and there was a fifth report in 1983. I believe each one of these reports was commissioned or appointed by the Liberal government of the day and each one of these reports has said: "Scrap the tax. Axe the tax. The tax must go".

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, before I was interrupted I was saying that there were five royal commissions or committee reports that all said we should be scrapping the existing manufacturers' sales tax.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I was delighted to see the members opposite surge to their feet and say: "That is exactly what this government should be doing". I am