

*Government Orders*

Member for Yukon does not delete that portion of the bill.

I would not want to think that her amendment was in fact an approval of these vicious taxes. I can only assume that he supports the Hon. Member for Calgary Northeast in trying to get rid of the entire clause instead of just getting rid of the portion that deals with the 13.5 per cent. I know that a tax on wines might be abhorrent to the hon. member. Personally I do not find it so bad. I prefer to see none of these taxes increased and I think that is the position of our party.

If the motion that has been moved by the Hon. Member for Yukon is only to remove the 13.5 per cent rate and not to oppose the other increases at the same time, I think they might want to clarify that point to the House because, frankly, I prefer not to support that motion but support the Hon. Member for Calgary Northeast in his views that we should get rid of the entire increase altogether.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I can clarify that for my hon. friend very quickly. I think that if there has been some consistency in this debate—and there has been some inconsistency—it has been that the New Democratic Party opposes this tax. We oppose the use of consumption taxes, of course, as our various reports have made very clear.

I must say that it has not been quite clear whether or not the Liberal party opposes some other consumption tax. Maybe 9 per cent is too high, but maybe 7 per cent is okay, maybe 4 per cent, or maybe 3 per cent. I am simply saying that I have not heard that clarified. I do not want to allege any motivations here unnecessarily, but perhaps we could have this clearly stated later.

Let me make this clear, Mr. Speaker. This move to increase the manufacturers' sales tax once again sounds to me rather peculiar because I, like my colleague from Edmonton, heard the Minister of Finance from time to time suggest that the manufacturers' sales tax is a killer of jobs. He said that it kills jobs, it kills economic development, it kills economic enterprise. It kills opportunities to develop new businesses and, by definition, create new jobs. He said that and yet, what are we doing

today? We are increasing the tax. We are increasing the job-killer tax.

Is it not rather hypocritical for a government to say that this tax is a killer of jobs and the next day ask us to pass legislation not only to keep the tax, but to increase the tax? Back in 1980 and 1984 this killer of jobs tax was 9 per cent. We all agreed that this tax had to go. Every parliamentarian felt that the manufacturers' sales tax was a bad tax. It was ill-conceived. It was biased. It was discriminatory against that sector of the economy that, in the past at least, tended to create the most jobs.

What does the government do when it is told we dislike this tax? I remember during the campaign in 1984 when the finance minister said the government disliked this tax and it had to change. Now we assume he meant for it to go down. He meant up, but that was not clear at that time. The Conservatives said: "We have to change this tax, so we will put it from 9 per cent to 10 per cent, up to 11 per cent, up to 12 per cent, and now up to 13.5 per cent".

This is not the way to encourage economic development in Canada. When a New Democrat says it has to change, it means it has to go. That is what we mean. When a Conservative says it has to change, it means it has to go up even higher. It is a Party of tax, tax, tax. It then picks the sector of the economy that in the past has been the job generator and taxes it even harder. They pile taxes on top of taxes and then at the end of it all say they have an even greater idea. They are going to slap a tax on everything: haircuts, cribs, coffins, reading material. Recognizing that we have five million people who are functionally illiterate, we will be the only country in the world that is going to tax reading material. If they buy a book, we will tax them; a magazine, we will tax them; a journal, we will tax them; a newspaper, we will tax them too.

What kind of government would do that to its people? What kind of government would tax children's clothing? At this time of year, when you have to go out and buy new snowsuits, buy new longjohns and get geared up for the long winter, the Conservative government says that as soon as it gets this tax in place it will tax those kids' snowboots and snowsuits. That is cruel. That is a cruel, mean way of taxation.