

*Government Orders*

What about taxation? Bill C-60 provides a general comprehensive framework between the federal and provincial governments with all sorts of taxation. This government, this Prime Minister and this Minister of Finance prided themselves in saying: "We have given you this year through the budget a tax break".

The Leader of the Official Opposition and the member from Windsor who is our finance critic analysed that and concluded that for a family earning on average between \$15,000 and \$20,000 the net reduction is \$2 a year; for a family \$30,000 to \$35,000, a net reduction of \$15. Do you know what Canadians are saying, Mr. Speaker? Canadians are saying: "Thank you very much, Mr. Government, but keep your \$15".

It is just like the senior citizens whose pensions were increased by 75 cents a month. I have had senior citizens who have put 75 cents in an envelope postage-free, sent it to my office, and said: "Give it back to the government because we don't need 75 cents. If it is that poor it can keep it".

This is from a government that expects applause for a \$15 reduction after 33 new tax increases since 1984 and is the architect of the GST. Even if we give the entire benefit of a doubt that the GST is a good tax, the timing could not have been worse. We have a government that is causing tax strangulation. There are people in all of our ridings, and we know this, who come to see us on Saturday mornings. They tell us that with a municipal tax on property that is going through the roof, particularly if you are a senior citizen on fixed income, the provincial, the federal, the GST, at the end of the month they get a feeling they are working more for the government than they are for themselves. At the end of the month, they are not putting anything away. At the end of the month, they cannot even meet the expenses incurred during that month.

We have people coming to all of our offices and showing us their expenses. At least, they showed some of their expenses to me. They say: "What do you suggest?" You try to help a senior citizen. Do you know what the answer from the federal government is? "Well, if you cannot afford your house, sell it." That is what it is telling them.

We have senior citizens in my riding and in ridings of my colleagues who have worked for their castle for years and years and years, Canadians of all walks of life, new

Canadians, old Canadians, Canadian born and immigrants who take pride in having built that home. A senior citizen who has raised a family, bought a home, paid it off, with their kids now off and doing their thing, has the Canadian government saying to them: "Well, if you cannot afford the increased property taxes, sell it". That is the biggest investment most Canadians make in their life. If they are reduced to selling that after paying the mortgage for some 30-odd years on 25 year amortization programs that they used to have, that they no longer have, what are we telling them?

I go back again to the question of the member on the government side. "Do you not trust us now in C-60 to take care of the over-all taxation situation?" From a practical view: why should they?

Take a look at the whole question of family child benefits. There has been much to-do about this much heralded new program. If you are in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 bracket of income for a family, the increase for your child benefits are \$4 more than they are under the current regime. Between 1986 and 1991, some \$3.5 billion was removed by this government in the area of child benefits.

Then the government comes along and expects, once again, to be applauded. Then you have the minister of health who takes pride in getting up and being "the killer" of child care in this country. In my riding, and the riding of my hon. friends on this side of the House, when we go door-knocking during and before a campaign—it does not matter—often you see what? You see a six-year-old answering the door who is taking care of his two or three-year-old brother because both parents are forced to work. They cannot afford child care and therefore that is the situation.

Are we really equipping our nation? Are we really permitting the opportunity for men and women to work while at the same time allowing for quality care of our youth of tomorrow's future as the word and as the statement that is over-used goes? To my hon. friend who asked, "Don't you trust this government in Bill C-60 to look after the needs, whether it is children, whether it is on the taxation front, whether it is the unemployed, whether it is training or education?", the answer is no. It is not a no because we happen to be in the opposition and that is the thing to say when you are in the opposition. It is no on behalf of Canadians.