

Income Tax

When the program was introduced, the minister tried to give us the excuse that there was a special program for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island because the people in those two provinces had to pay very high electricity costs. He forgot to point out—

An hon. Member: Carried.

Mr. Crosbie: No, it is not carried. It is not going to carry for a considerable time yet. Is there a gentleman in this House who wants to carry this clause after I have pointed out the discriminatory provisions in it? Not at all. It is never going to carry.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Chairman, have they no conscience? Of course, the answer is they have not.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: Listen to the cacophony. Originally, a special program was justified for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island on the ground that they had to pay higher electricity costs than those in the rest of Canada. The minister forgot to point out that in Nova Scotia over 90 per cent of the homes are heated by oil-fired furnaces, and in Prince Edward Island it is 98 per cent. Electricity did not have anything to do with heating their homes. There is no connection between the high cost of electricity and this program. It will reduce the consumption of oil in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which is good. That is just what it would do in the rest of the provinces of Canada. However, it has no connection whatever with electricity costs. The people in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island do not have electric heating for their homes; they use oil or coal.

Premier Regan of Nova Scotia put the boots to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He came to Ottawa and assaulted the minister and the government. He forced them to bring in a special program for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We are forcing the government to bring in a program for the rest of Canada. They are trying to hold back on the rest of Canada, saying that it would be too costly. They say they cannot put the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island program in effect for the rest of Canada. If they have not got the "spondulix", if they have not got the dollars to put it in effect all across Canada, they do not have to put it in effect all at once. They could start in certain areas of the country which are economically damaged because of high unemployment. Over the next three or four years it could be extended throughout the whole country. The Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island program should be extended to the high unemployment areas and northern areas with their colder climate. It should start there and progress to other areas over the next few years. The money does not all have to be spent in the one year.

I have not uttered a word in the last 20 minutes that is not of the utmost sense, that is not a good and valid reason for the members of this committee to do the people they represent justice and justify why they were sent here. For members in

[Mr. Crosbie.]

the party opposite to sit there, because they are afraid they might get a tap on the hand, and accept that their citizens are second-class compared to Nova Scotians and people from Prince Edward Island, is inexcusable. I hope I am not going to see that. I hope I shall see the members representing New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Quebec, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories turn thumbs down on clause 6. Let it be taken out. Let us strike a blow for fairness and justice.

● (1802)

Mr. Breau: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Crosbie: If the hon. member asks a question, I will take another 20 minutes.

Mr. Breau: He may need more than 20 minutes to make sense. Talking about party discipline encouraging votes, does the hon. member recall that on the unemployment insurance legislation not very long ago, while members on this side stayed here to vote, he did not have the guts to stay here and vote against his party?

Mr. Crosbie: I will not bother to answer that.

Mr. Andras: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me this is an appropriate moment to do what we not infrequently do in this House, that is to say, abandon partisan politics and honour one among us for whom we all have the greatest respect. I am speaking about the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first election of our very distinguished and well-liked friend, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, who was elected 35 years ago in a by-election to succeed another distinguished Canadian, Mr. J. S. Woodsworth. I think all of us would like to take this opportunity to extend to him our best wishes for continued good health and exemplary service to this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, as one who has had to serve with the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and to suffer the indignity of having his English continually corrected, just as the House has had its direction continually modulated by the hon. member, I should like to move that you rise, report progress and ask leave to sit later this day.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): At the next sitting.

Mr. Peters: At the next sitting of the House, or whenever it may be, for the purpose of enabling his many friends to fete him in Room 200.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I join with representatives of all parties in paying our respects and offering best wishes to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. He has been well described by the hon. member for Timiskaming as being the conscience of the House—and its schoolteacher, too, if I may say so. My maiden speech was delivered over 20 years ago and I was not allowed to complete