

S. O. 21

Large investors are interested in buying Air Canada shares for the purpose of making capital gains, or to reap the tax benefits arising out of capital losses.

The real reason for the share sale is to reduce Air Canada's debt/equity ratio to make the sale of the other 55 per cent of the company more attractive to the high-rollers on Bay Street.

Since many brokers consider airline stocks to be unsuitable for the average investor, buyers should beware.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

WAGES OF DOCK WORKERS ON EAST AND WEST COASTS

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley—Hants): Mr. Speaker, I know from time to time Members in the House hear complaints from the Deep East that it is sometimes discriminated against, and they often think that those complaints are in our wildest imaginations.

I want to bring to the attention of the House a very specific matter which has been irritating me, and giving me concern. I was hoping that it was going to be resolved so that I would not have to bring it to the floor of the House of Commons. It has to do with dock workers, both on the East Coast and on the West Coast. We have a beautiful system whereby there is a ship repair unit on the Atlantic, and a ship repair unit on the Pacific. A contract has been negotiated in which the Atlantic workers receive \$3.50 less an hour than the same tradesmen in the same unit on the Pacific on the West Coast. This is not acceptable.

● (1410)

It is time that the Treasury Board got off their duff and moved to resolve this discrimination. There is no right to strike here, because these workers on both coasts, because of the importance of the job they do for national security, are designated workers. As a Government, we do believe in regional development. It is illogical to think that, with something within our administrative command, by Order in Council we could not remove this discrimination.

We talk about equal pay for equal work, and we talk about it only applying to women or visible minorities. Why can we not have it for our own trades people in the Public Service? The cost of living is more in the Halifax area than in Esquimalt. It used to be that comparative wage scales were different. The fact of the matter is that comparative wage scales in Atlantic Canada are even higher now than the comparative wage scales in the West.

My time is almost up. The fact of the matter is it is time to end the eastern workers being geographic scapegoats and

second-class citizens, and to move to parity over a three-year period.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TAX REFORM

AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, there was a song by the Beatles called *The Taxman*, which went like this:

"There's one for you, 19 for me . . .

Should 5 per cent appear too small,

Be thankful I don't take it all."

That might not be an inexact description of what the Government has done with so-called tax reform, bearing in mind where Canadians started in 1984, and where they are today.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has tried to dupe Canadians into thinking that their incomes have risen with the few extra dollars that they have received in take-home pay since July 1.

The Fraser Institute describes this as "trickery". That is a harsh word, and it is not commonly used by that institute.

The Fraser Institute's recent report points out that Canadians face so many hidden taxes embedded in our cost-of-living that we do not even notice when we pay them. That is something that has often been addressed by Members on this side of the House. There are so many indirect taxes; the excise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, gasoline, the manufacturer's sales tax, which this Government has increased enormously.

The Conservative tax grab is big and still growing.

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FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT

VICKY KEITH APPLAUDED ON SWIMMING ALL FIVE GREAT LAKES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I was just waking up this morning when I heard on the radio the impressive news that Vicky Keith, an Ontario swimming coach, had reached land in Toronto after swimming across Lake Ontario.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Angus: She had just completed a series of crossings of each of the five Great Lakes—the first person ever to do so. She had also just broken the previous world record for long distance swimming using the butterfly stroke, a world record that she herself set. She is the first swimmer to cross either Lake Huron or that Great Lake, Lake Superior.