

us not forget, Mr. Speaker, that 80 per cent of the taxes collected by the federal government come from the pockets of small taxpayers. Therefore, sooner or later we must get back to the small taxpayer, the small businessman, and tell them: Small Canadian businessmen or citizens, from now on you will be recognized by your government like the big firms. And then, Mr. Speaker, we will be talking of a truly just society.

I am puzzled to find out that when the bills were introduced, no minister talked about a just society. And yet, this was the Liberal slogan when they won a majority election in 1968. We have seen what did come out of this in 1972. Mr. Speaker, if this government does not come alive, this will mean that the gap will keep on widening between the rich and the poor. The poor will keep on decrying the rich and vice versa, and in between, this government will keep on giving the poor a song and dance routine while serving the rich.

The role of the government is not to do either of those things, but to put everything in its place, not to take away from Peter to give to Paul, and to give equal opportunity to all citizens.

That is what I think of Bill C-192 and I hope that these well-intentioned and frank remarks will be considered. The mandate I received from my fellow citizens of Lotbinière was so clear that it is impossible for me not to be clear in this House. I ask the Minister of Finance to think twice about that; we congratulate him for encouraging large companies, but we would equally like him to have the same courage when it comes to supporting small enterprise before this House. Finally, I would like him to change willingly that magic number 60, which denies us the right to amend this bill after adoption.

• (1640)

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the minister speaks, he will close the debate.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will not speak at length, because we will be able to deal with these matters in committee. I have listened carefully to the speeches and look forward to bringing forward at the committee stage some amendments to the parliamentary review provision which will, in my opinion, make it meaningful along lines suggested by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin).

[Translation]

As always I have listened with great interest to the very honest speech made by my friend the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin).

I must point out that one of this government's objectives is to support private enterprise, particularly small enterprise. If the Creditists consider the provisions of this bill relating to small enterprise, they will realize that the 25 per cent tax rate on small enterprise under the Income Tax Act will be lowered to 20 per cent in order to stimulate small businesses, small manufacturers and small industrialists. That is included in the bill now before the House.

I have to agree with him that as far as employment is concerned in Canada, 60 per cent of labour is employed by

Income Tax Act

small enterprises with fewer than 100 workers. I understand very well that it is most important, particularly in the interest of small communities in our country, to decentralize the economic effects. Then, in principle, I agree with the general theme of the hon. member's speech, but at the same time I disagree of course with his general criticism of the government and its alleged lack of appeal.

Mr. Fortin: Talk about the 60 members.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will talk about that later.

Mr. Fortin: Right now.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will talk about that later. Mr. Speaker, I believe there is an agreement whereby if a given number of members demand a vote, it will be deferred until Wednesday, after orders of the day have been called. In any event, I leave it to the discretion of the Chair and to the order of the House in relation to the vote.

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that the same point is in the mind of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, I think it might be better if there were to be an order of the House at this time. I think there has been general consent on the part of all parties, in view of the wide interest in this bill and the vote and in view of the difficulty that hon. members may experience at present with air transport, for the vote to be held immediately after orders of the day are called on Wednesday.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was about to make the same point. On Friday we agreed in general terms to the suggestion that has now been made, but we did not incorporate that in an order of the House. I suggest, therefore, that after Your Honour puts the question and after five of us have stood, calling for a vote, it then be made an order of the House that the vote shall take place immediately after the calling of orders of the day on Wednesday.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, we were party to this agreement, and we keep to it. Under the rules, five members will have to rise and call for the vote. It seems logical to me that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) should think about it and also agree now to reduce the number in the bill, in order to be able to bring back the legislation if it should not produce the effects promised by the Minister of Finance.

Only five members have to rise and call for the vote, and I find it absurd that 60 are needed to bring back the bill before the House.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There has been agreement in unequivocal terms and it is so ordered. The hon. member for Compton rises on a point of order.

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.