

Government Orders

When our Canadian products are put on the market in Europe or the United States with a 13.5 per cent tax included, I am automatically disqualified or it is harder for me to compete for sales internationally.

Mr. Speaker, I say that if we want to maintain our social programs, if we want to maintain Canadians' collective wealth, we must bring money into this country and we will do that by exporting our labour and what we produce.

So I want to tax rich people on what they do with their money. Secondly, I want to make my exports competitive. Thirdly, and this is not said often enough, we have no external marks to distinguish rich and poor. I want to help the less fortunate deal with that expense. That is why there will be rebates based on the previous year's tax return. Households with incomes of \$30,000 or less will get tax credits four times a year, not to spend the first day they get it. It is to help them deal with the extra expenses they will incur.

It is true that if they go to St. Hubert Bar-B-Q or McDonald's to eat half a chicken for \$10, it will cost \$10.70. We are not lying to people; we are telling them that is true. But to help them pay the extra 70 cents, they will receive a credit on January 1, March 1, July 1 and October 1. With that, they can handle the extra expenses.

We are not lying. I for one did not need that. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I am earning \$80 000, and I do not need the rebate, I can afford it. One thing is certain—the Canadian economy will be paid for by Canadians, not by foreigners. The debt will be paid by Canadians, not by foreigners. It is our business. We are asking more and more from the government. Every year we used to pay all sorts of things for Canadians. There was talk about VIA Rail, about a lot of other services. We have taken firm action on the economy. There is a new Budget coming, and I am sure there will be more.

I remember in 1984, when we came up with our first Budget and started cutting, I kept hearing on the other side who is running today for the leadership of the Liberal party. She used to say: "Cut, Cut, Cut!" and "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs." Never so were so many new jobs created than since that time!

There are political risks to be taken. There are fiscal risks to be taken. And the risks we took in 1984, 1985 and 1986 have borne fruit.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I certainly want to tax the rich on what they do with their money. Second, I want to make our goods globally competitive by repealing the 13.5 per cent tax, and making our exporters competitive.

Third, I want to help the less privileged, because to them this will be an extra cost; those people I want to help face that new expenditure. And this, Mr. Speaker, leads me to the exemption. Not all goods will be taxed. Food will be exempt, drugs will be exempt, rents will be exempt, resale houses will be exempt.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are exceptions in—

Mr. Fontana: What is the definition of "Food"?

Mr. Hudon: —Someone asked for the definition of food. The Liberals, Mr. Speaker, are wondering how to define food. Well, since they were in power for 22 years, they could have come up with a definition!

Mr. Nystrom: It's caviar and Big Macs!

Mr. Hudon: Ah! Caviar! So that's it.. Here we go again, about those tons of caviar that are sold every year. The NDP and its crusade against caviar! Mr. Speaker, the Liberals are wondering how to define food. Shame, shame! So you really wonder?

Mr. Fontana: Is barbecued chicken food?

Mr. Hudon: You seem to have a problem. I suppose if I mention prescription drugs and tell them these are not taxed, they will say: What is the definition of a prescription drug? We will remind them that in Bill C-22, we came up with a definition of prescription drugs, and it was a worthwhile exercise, believe me, because during the 22 years they were in power, their definition of prescription drugs wasn't so hot. They didn't really know what it meant. Now they wonder what food is. They ask to have the hours of the House extended so they can talk some more. The people listening to us today, Mr. Speaker, can hardly be expected to take all this very seriously.

Mr. Speaker, the tax reform before the House today, which is part of the overall tax reform, will be beneficial to the economy of this country in general. All politicians are the same. They try to tax areas, not where it is politically expedient but where it makes the most sense to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that tomorrow morning, the Minister of Finance will be able to sell Canadians a tax of