

Private Members' Business

having listened to Canadians in the greatest consultation process that has ever taken place leading up to a budget.

We did it without increasing income tax. We did it without taxing dental and employer provided medical plans. We did it without making many changes that would affect to any great extent registered retirement savings plan contributions.

We did it without taxing lotteries. Many people thought we would. A number of people said not to tax lottery winnings. I told them that if they were to win a million dollars and had to pay tax on it but did not want to, I knew some people who would take their ticket for them.

We did it without changing the capital gains tax for small business and farmers. In so doing we again recognized the importance of small business and farmers in the Canadian economy.

Yes, we did it on the revenue side by increasing the tax on gasoline 1.5 cents a litre. I think that is fair and equitable from coast to coast. We also did it by cutting the size of government. Yes, I recognize that people in Prince Edward—Hastings riding in the civil service will have to contribute and will be contributing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): Order. It being 1.43 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 73, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and to put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the bill now before the House.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. members: Yea.

Some hon. members: On division.

(Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a committee.)

• (1345)

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, because of the ministerial statement we should be starting private members' hour in 15 minutes. However, if members are agreeable and with unanimous consent perhaps we could start private members' hour immediately.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): The Chair might be of some help if the chief government whip would approach the Chair for a moment.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Pursuant to what we discussed briefly earlier, if you were now to seek

unanimous consent you would find that instead of suspending the House for 15 minutes, which is what we would normally do at this time, we could perhaps start immediately with private members' hour, as no other bill is before the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): The House has heard the suggestion of the chief government whip. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): It being 1.50 p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

Mr. Jim Silye (Calgary Centre, Ref.) moved that Bill C-247, an act to amend the Income Tax Act (child care expenses), be read the second time and referred to a committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present my private member's bill C-247, an act to amend the Income Tax Act on child care Expenses.

This bill would give all parents a tax deduction of \$5,000 or \$3,000 per child to assist them with the increasing costs of raising their children while at the same time eliminate the current tax discrimination against stay at home parents and those who do not use day care. All parents would have the same deduction available to them regardless of their incomes, status, marital status, labour force, or chosen method of child care.

• (1350)

I would like to read an excerpt from a discussion paper that was sent to me, not by a special interest group but by Cheryl Stewart and Sandra Evans of Ontario. It reads:

We are Canadian mothers who work at home full time nurturing our children.

We both had successful careers in the paid workforce prior to choosing to stay home and raise our children.

We are concerned about the direction that this process is taking toward institutionalized child care and how it is virtually ignoring other forms of care—particularly those who choose to care for their own children.

According to Statistics Canada, 68.5 per cent of women in two-parent families with children under three, and 62 per cent with children between the ages of three and five, remain at home on a full time basis or work part time. When all women in two-parent families with children under 16 years of age are taken into consideration, 57.6 per cent have decided to either remain at home full time or work part time.