

Income Tax Act

larly those that are important to Canadians from the point of view of employment.

Whatever other effects they may have, the actions of the United States have shown the hollowness of this government's complacency about Canadian exports. It just is not good enough for this government to preen itself by talking about success in selling raw materials abroad. Much of the secondary manufacturing industry of this country is approaching a crossroads in so far as foreign markets are concerned. I have been urging for a year or more that we formulate long-term policies to enable us to diversify our foreign markets and to embark upon serious programs to increase trade with trading blocs such as the European Common Market. However, I believe that this government has preferred to avoid the hard task of rethinking the options open to Canada and to this government. I say that trade missions, no matter how immediately successful they might be, are no substitute for long-term policies. The success of such missions must surely in the long run depend upon such policies. But that is something this government cannot understand. And now, even when the President of the United States talks about a new era opening in international trade, the significance of that statement has obviously not yet dawned on this government. At least it is not reflected in any action it has taken.

• (3:40 p.m.)

I sat in this House the other night and listened to the Minister of Finance give his usual complacent account of the economic situation. I do not want to be facetious, but I hope the Prime Minister will lend our Minister of Finance to the International Monetary Fund to help them work out their problems. It was the same old complacent record he gave us that we have heard for the last two years—prosperity is just around the corner.

Mr. McGrath: He didn't say what corner.

Mr. Stanfield: I am surprised he did not go back even beyond Herbert Hoover and promise us a chicken in every pot. It is now pretty clear that the government has no intention of giving us any real projections for the coming months. I and my colleagues have been pressing for that. I guess we have been wasting our time. It is also very clear that the government does not intend to propose a program, either long or short-term, to restore the Canadian economy.

I have to ask, why is this government so stubbornly refusing to tell us its projections? Is it because even before the American moves they did not show that the upturn is just around the corner? Is it because the figures show that the unemployment situation is not going to improve for the balance of this year, as the government has been promising? Is that the reason the government won't release its projections? Or is it simply because the government has no reliable projections and no effective programs? Is the government simply whistling in the dark?

They can whistle if they like, Sir, but that is exactly the way they appear to me, and I think to most of the Canadian people at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Stanfield: The only clue to the government's intentions so far lies in its ineffectual efforts with regard to wicked Washington. Obviously, the idea now is to lay the blame for our current and future problems on the backs of the Americans. I think we are being hurt, and we may be hurt more. I have already said that here, and I have said it outside this House. But this government, no matter how much it squirms, isn't going to be able to slough off its heavy responsibility for our present situation in this country. This government and no other is responsible for the two years of economic stagnation in this country. This government and no other is responsible for the policies that have led to a continuous massive unemployment that as yet shows no signs of substantial and significant decline. On the contrary, it threatens to grow worse in the months ahead. This government and no other is responsible for the uncertainty that has prevailed in this country for a year and a half on the whole vital issue of tax reform.

It is time for this government to share its responsibilities—well, not to share, even though we would be happy to share them . . .

Mr. Trudeau: Would you?

Mr. Stanfield: Yes, we would be happy to share them, but we would have to be satisfied that the government is prepared to take some action first. We don't want to get involved in doing nothing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: It is time for the government finally to move to boost the economy and effectively to combat unemployment. This is the first priority we have as we sit here today and during these weeks. This is the first priority which the legislation now before us does nothing to meet.

May I emphasize two things in closing. First, there are immediate, pressing problems that face us right now, and that will face us in the coming months, for which this bill is quite irrelevant. Regardless of whether or not the government proceeds with this legislation now, it has to act now with regard to these problems, problems that I am sure each member of this House recognizes as being serious and needing attention. It is not just the opposition in this House, Sir; it is not just me, it is not just my colleagues, and it is not just the members down here to my left who are demanding action. It is the people of Canada. It is the Canadian people who are demanding that this government take effective action to attack unemployment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: There is very little if anything in this bill that will help spur the Canadian economy forward. There is nothing positive in this bill to encourage Canadians to invest in their own economy. I admit that there is the removal of a disincentive, and I suppose we should be grateful for small mercies, but there is nothing in the bill to help us build up our industries or build up our exports. In short, there is nothing in this bill, or for that matter in the policies of the government in general, to encourage the incentive on which the progress of our Canadian