Income Tax Act

if he drives his car only a mile or two from his home to his employment. This is the type of situation that is being allowed to continue by the Minister of National Revenue who was a liberal before he became a minister accustomed to the nice things one has when in power. This is the type of situation we have been trying to get the government to change.

We are always told that further study is required. Of course this is a complicated situation, but why does the minister not take a look at the recommendation of the Carter commission? The commission recommended that there be an automatic ceiling-I admit that the recommendation may be a little too tight-in respect of a businessman who travels to another district and has hotel and meal expenses. It is not essential that every businessman patronize the most expensive restaurants every day in the city he happens to be visiting. This, however, is the kind of system we have and the kind of system which the Minister of National Revenue defended when he spoke. He shakes his head, but I suggest we are entitled to assume this is the position he takes until he does something about the inequitable situation as between those who can afford to pay but get away with murder and those who cannot afford to pay but are forced to do so. The members of this group do not intend to vote for this measure which the government wishes to impose, nor will they listen without reply to the type of lecture we have just had from the Minister of National Revenue.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Chairman, I should like to direct a question to the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow).

How can he explain to us that less than 48 hours after the presentation of the Carter report, his party was ready to have it passed by the House of Commons while a few days after, several members of his party, including an hon. member for British Columbia, who is seated behind his leader, I have forgotten the name of his constituency—

An hon. Member: Skeena.

Mr. Chrétien: The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) and other members of his party asked that certain recommendations of the Carter report be not applied as regards the mining industry and the development of natural resources. Could the hon. member for Winnipeg North explain that to me, since he seems such an expert as far as the explanation of the Carter report is concerned?

• (5:30 p.m.) [English]

Mr. Orlikow: At this time I do not intend to go into details as to why we support the basic principles of the Carter commission report. I suggest to the Minister of National Revenue that he take home a copy of that report, in English or in French, and study it tonight. He should also take a copy of the submission to the government by the Confederation of National Trade Unions from which I quoted earlier. That organization supports and endorses the principles of the Carter report and explains how the ordinary citizens of this country would benefit by the adoption of certain recommendations. It is apparent the minister wishes to defend big business. I suggest that he read their submission and the report in order that members of this party will not have to lecture him at length in this chamber.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the Carter report, I should like to make a correction.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North would have us believe that we oppose its recommendations. Generally speaking, we do not oppose the recommendations of the Carter report. Only, we know something about it, having studied it for months, because we took the time to analyse it, whereas the leader of the New Democratic party (Mr. Douglas) already had general views about it and accepted them all less than 24 hours after the voluminous report was brought in.

Only, we have spent a few months studying it and we were about to present the white paper on fiscal reforms some time during the winter. Unfortunately, certain incidents forced us to postpone it for a few months, because the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) saw fit to retire. We have been working on the Carter report for almost seven months. We are in the process of formulating fiscal reforms for Canada which will surprise my hon. friends of the New Democratic party; they will lose nothing by waiting a few weeks more to know the views of a progressive party, that is, the party that sits on this side of the house.

[English]

Mr. Germa: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of National Revenue was misrepresenting the facts when he said that members of the N.D.P. were always in favour of spending