

Income Tax Act

they have been receiving the moral support of local communities.

There is also the question of the depreciation allowance.

Mr. Moreau: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Herridge: Certainly.

Mr. Moreau: I was just wondering whether, in this story of the Reeves MacDonald operation, the hon. member would be able to supply the figures of what the cost would be to the mine if it paid these additional wages? It does not seem to me that \$279,000 in dividends is a very large profit for a mine. Could the hon. member supply the costs?

Mr. Herridge: I have not got any figures as to the costs, but the point of my argument and that of the union representing the miners, and of the miners themselves and the communities supporting them, is that the price of metals has gone up considerably in the last six months. I have talked to mining engineers employed by other companies in the area, and everybody who understands the situation knows that this company is treating these miners unjustly, and is not accepting its responsibilities to the Canadian workers and the Canadian economy by allowing the mine to be closed up because of its refusal to pay reasonable wages under these present circumstances.

I might say, in reply to the hon. gentleman who asked the question, that owing to the increase in the price of metals, and even before that, the company was well able to pay the modest increases recommended as the result of the unanimous report of a conciliation board, the chairman of which was a former minister of mines in a Liberal government of British Columbia, and who is himself a mining engineer. This man knows the mining industry. I myself know him very well. He is very competent in that field and I give him full credit for that, even though I have often differed with him on political questions. He is not one to go overboard in these matters. He saw and assessed the situation independently, and no one can say with any truth whatever that all the factors were not taken into consideration.

I have brought this unusual situation to the attention of the minister so that he and his officials will have some opportunity to study the question. I suggest that consideration should be given to the lack of responsibility on the part of this corporation, and others who act in the same manner, who fail to accept their responsibilities to the Canadian people and the workers concerned, and to the industry in general, so that something

[Mr. Herridge.]

may be done to amend our income tax legislation to prevent these people from taking such irresponsible action while at the same time taking advantage of the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes left to me before five o'clock I would like to express my strong support for this bill, particularly because of the incentive measures referred to by the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett). Most of us have recognized in one way or another the problem of the existence of areas of slow growth and chronic unemployment. Now that we have recognized the problem—and it was recognized in very limited part by the previous administration—it is time to do something about it, and I think the measures proposed in this legislation will go a long way towards dealing with it.

However, the advantage that we propose in this legislation, and in affiliated legislation governing the Department of Industry, is that what we do will not be a chance, secret order in council decision by cabinet, but will be carried out through a permanent agency set up to identify these areas after applying the criteria now embodied in legislation. Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member move that the debate be adjourned?

On motion of Mr. Gray the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. It being five o'clock p.m. the house will now proceed to consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely public bills and private bills.

SMALL LOANS ACT**AMENDMENT TO REDUCE MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE**

On the order:

Second reading of Bill No. C-14, an act to amend the Small Loans Act—Mr. Orlikow.

Some hon. Members: Stand.

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I notice that Bill C-14 and Bill C-23 have exactly the same words and are the same bills in essence, even though they have been introduced by different hon. members. I think this is contrary to the rules, and I ask you—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. My understanding is that this bill is not before the house. It has been allowed to stand; therefore it should not be debated.

Mr. Valade: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, my point is that the other bill is of