

Income Tax

Mr. Whelan: They thought it up, not we on this side of the House. We were asked by farm organizations to help them be in a better economic position. That is what we are doing and that is what we are trying to do, if they will just allow it.

I have checked procedures in other democratic Parliaments around the world, and I have found in the Ontario Legislative Assembly that the Premier, the Leader of that great Conservative Party and that great Government of Ontario, found it necessary to use time allocation. He even used guillotine law to get some legislation through the Provincial Legislative Assembly of Ontario. When we check the record we will find—and I think it has been for economic reasons, rather than wasting manpower or the facilities of the House of Commons—that the Liberals were in power over two-thirds of the time since Confederation but that that Party opposite used closure, guillotine laws and time allocation more than we did in the history of this Parliament.

Some Hon. Members: Nonsense!

Mr. Whelan: If we cannot come to a gentleman's agreement on time allocation, as the Mother Parliament or the mother of democracy does in 90 per cent of all instances, it leaves me no other choice. As one who has been elected from the age of 21 years, I have never in my political career seen democracy being stymied like it has been in this instance with the little Bill called Canagrex. It is no wonder we cannot get on with the things we need to do.

What do they say? I have some of their old letters and old publications when they were supporting Canagrex on the other side of the House. It is amazing to read them and then to read what they are saying at this time.

Mr. Mayer: Read them, let's hear them.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I cannot wait until we debate the time allocation. I look forward to that and I will debate it at greater length at that time.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, having listened to the Minister talk about parliamentary democracy makes a charade of this whole place. It is just farcical for him to rise and point to parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Whelan: You need a little understanding.

Mr. Thomson: You do not even have the vaguest understanding of what parliamentary democracy is all about.

Some Hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Kelly: You do not know.

Mr. Thomson: Is that right? In order to achieve a rapid economic recovery, Canada needs a private sector which will focus all of its talents on its investment, production and marketing decisions. Do you know who said that? It was the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) on October 27, 1982. Where has he been for the last 14 years? It is incredible the Minister would have that much gall to stand up in this House

and say, "In order to achieve a rapid economic recovery, Canada needs a private sector which will focus all of its talents on investment, production and marketing decisions." He no more means that statement than he would fly to the moon. He does not know what it is all about. He does not even know what those statements mean. Nor does he really care. He is a born again free enterpriser.

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Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kempling: Hallelujah, Marc.

Mr. Thomson: Here is a man who single-handedly destroyed an industry. He should be very proud of himself. He destroyed the Canadian oil and gas industry. If there is one thing the Minister of Finance will be remembered for for the rest of his life, and it will go down in Canadian history, it will be that he destroyed the Canadian oil and gas industry.

A Government Minister of Finance should have some credibility. It is the second most important position in Government. Next to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) the Minister of Finance has to be seen by all sectors of society as being credible. But here we have the Minister of Finance who has destroyed the Canadian oil and gas industry and then has the gall to say that we need a private sector, by saying "Fellow Members, we need a private sector which will focus all of its talents on investment, production and marketing." Let me repeat that phrase, "All of its talents on investment." Here is a man who just drove \$10 billion out of Canada. Those are undeniable facts. Here is the man, the Minister of Finance, who drove \$10 billion out of Canada and goodness knows how many jobs, and yet says that we have to focus all our attention on investment, production and marketing. How can he say that to the Canadian people with such audacity?

Hon. Members, can you not smile a little bit? Surely that must tickle your funny bones just a bit.

Mr. Irwin: How about your 400 per cent in the last decade? How can you stand there with a straight face?

Mr. Thomson: In his statement of October 27, the Minister went on to say that the people of this country recognize that the recession is a global problem. But here we have a Government that for 14 years, with the exception of nine months, has mismanaged the Canadian economy. The Liberals say it is not their fault, that it has nothing to do with them. They say "It is a global problem." We hear them say that all of these villains, all the other rotten countries around the globe, have brought Canada to the brink of where it is today.

The Liberals have no responsibility for the plight in which we find ourselves. Of course not. A Liberal Government would never assume responsibility for anything unless somehow it could take credit for something it had nothing to do with. The Liberals say they have no responsibility for the plight we are