

*Income Tax Act*

Some amendments are very beneficial to Canadians, considering that some 800,000 of them will not have to pay any taxes and that close to 3 million taxpayers as well as industrialists will be granted great benefits.

This amendment does not give much consideration to the concrete results that will follow from the standpoint of unemployment and inflation. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to remind the government that there are, nevertheless, excellent suggestions which may be made by hon. members and which take into account the interests and needs of each riding.

I had the privilege and, I might say, the good idea of organizing an information meeting in my riding not too long ago. That has enabled me to get better acquainted with the interests and needs of my constituents who in turn had the responsibility, in the various workshops, of making suggestions that I was to submit to the government.

These resolutions take into account the needs of all Canadians, and I would like to tell the House about them.

The government should pay particular attention to these resolutions which, I think, could eliminate unemployment to which the amendment refers. I think I remain within the purport of the amendment in making these comments for the government's particular consideration.

I will take agriculture as an example. Several persons of influence in my riding have asked me to make representations to the government urging them to establish a social climate which would improve the position of Canadians.

Farmers did not hesitate in asking me—and this is very sensible—to demand of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) a policy which could be established jointly with the provinces and which would guarantee free assistance to schools and hostels.

If the government is responsible for the health of Canadians, I am convinced that such a step would be of benefit to child health as well as to dairy producers who, last year, met with great difficulties.

I know that the Minister of Agriculture has often agreed to the demands of the milk producers, and I know also that the experiment launched three years ago in the United States to provide free milk in schools and hostels has been a great success. They have doubled the budget for that measure. Indeed thus we protect the health of the children and encourage consumption, which is really important for milk producers.

We know very well that because of the reduction of quotas quite a number of milk producers had to leave their farms. The government ought to take measures in order to ensure the survival of family farms. This is a way to make sure that milk producers get a higher income and at the same time to grant essential guarantees for the health of children.

As for the housing field, a resolution has been unanimously endorsed and I know that the removal of the 11 per cent tax on building materials has been widely discussed.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, my constituents are not indifferent to the results of that policy. Bill C-259 includes some important amendments which have been suggested, but it is also important to consider the possibility of

removing the 11 per cent tax. If we sincerely wish to give a new impetus to construction, it is quite advisable to consider the removal of the tax. Several members have already raised the matter. I had the opportunity of discussing it and asking the government to grant special consideration to that policy. We have reached the point where we must seriously consider the removal of that tax, according to various unions and organizations of employers. It would be a way to spur the economy by enabling future owners to take advantage of reduced prices.

I repeat my request and ask the government to give special consideration to that policy.

• (8:20 p.m.)

It seems that the government is seeking various solutions, but it seems to me very simple and much more beneficial to take certain steps about housing. That would be a ready means to get people to become homeowners, and the repeal of the 11 per cent sales tax would also increase sales of building materials.

It is important for the government to convene as soon as possible all unions and builders in order to initiate a program to bring about an agreement with unions, employers, building materials dealers, and builders as well. In my opinion, if Parliament were to convene such a meeting which would go by the name of "New start in housing", it would allow the government to set up criteria and I think that it would be useful if they invited all parties concerned in housing to draw a comprehensive program for the next two or three years.

The government could on the one hand offer almost unlimited credit opportunities and would be entitled on the other hand to request particularly from labour unions some undertakings of their own such as a salary freeze.

Discontinuance of the right to strike could also be discussed together with a price freeze on building materials in order that future owners could really benefit from the removal of this 11 per cent tax.

I am sure that should the government hold such a meeting and offer unlimited credit opportunities, it would be very difficult for unions as well as for building contractors to oppose such a measure once a new start in housing is being considered.

I believe that this meeting should take place as soon as possible and I am convinced that it would enable many citizens to buy their own house at reduced interest rates. These unlimited credit opportunities would furthermore entitle us to demand from unions and building contractors that they make certain concessions to reciprocate the government's good faith.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw the government's attention on public projects in which municipalities are interested. We know quite well that the winter works program was dropped a little over a year ago. It no doubt gave way to abuse. However, we clearly recognize that the municipalities are facing financial problems. The government would be taking proper action in setting up at the earliest possible moment a policy to make a better selection of utility projects as far as the municipalities are concerned.

As to pollution, Mr. Speaker, the government should without hesitation set up a policy that would allow any