

Supply

There are many other loopholes we have been asking them to close from the business and entertainment tax deductions to many others. We get the same answer all the time, that we have to be competitive. Even on that argument which I reject, even if we take the government at its own word for a while, there are other countries with which we compete that do not have as generous business and entertainment tax deductions. There are other countries with which we compete including the United States that have much more severe inheritance taxes.

It is not a question of having to do what others do. It is a question of some strange power that the corporate elite has over this particular government at this particular time.

Mr. Angus: They own it.

Mr. Blaikie: "They own it", says the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan. I think he is right.

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): They owned the previous Liberal government.

Mr. Blaikie: As the hon. member for Edmonton East says: "They owned the previous Liberal government".

It is very strange. I am waiting for someone from the Liberal caucus one of these days to ask a question of the government as to why it is doing this and to urge it not to. Has there been a Liberal member who has stood up and urged the government not to bring in this particular measure?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. George Baker did this.

Mr. Blaikie: The member says that one Liberal member has done this. It was certainly not the official tax critic for their party. We await that question. I can understand the hon. member referred to that because he has a history of sticking up for the little guy and therefore being a minority within his own party. Has it been done officially on behalf of the Liberal Party? We await that with bated breath.

Going back just a minute to the business and entertainment tax deduction, we are always talking about there being a great deal of emphasis in right wing circles about making sure that ordinary Canadians do not rip off the system, that they do not get any UI that they do not especially deserve or qualify for or that people do not get any more welfare than they absolutely must get. All

these things are legitimate concerns. No one wants to see any system ripped off.

Why is there not the same concern about, as Neil Brooks, an expert from York University once said, the fact that there is more fraud going on at a Blue Jays game than there is anywhere else. There are all these season tickets that belong to corporations, the cost of which is being deducted as a business expense, when in fact they are simply tickets that are being given out to family and friends and have very little to do with any sort of business expense whatsoever.

Why is it that certain groups of people in this country can deduct those kinds of expenses when ordinary working folks cannot deduct the cost of the tools they have to buy or teachers cannot deduct certain things they have to purchase as a part of doing their job? There are many other examples of people who are doing a lot more than simply shuffling paper around making money through mergers and other trickery who cannot deduct these kinds of things. Yet a very small minority of people are able to make these enormous deductions related to buying season tickets at baseball games or hockey games or whatever. It is this kind of thing that frankly I wish Canadians would get more upset about.

People get upset if they hear there has been some welfare fraud or something like that. The phone starts to ring off the hook in the constituency office. I wish we could just get Canadians as excited about the way they are being ripped off from the top of the sociological ladder. It seems to me that those ways of ripping off the system deserve more attention and involve an incredible amount of money.

One other thing I would like to cover, because there is a supplementary estimate related to it, is the question of the money spent in this country on the nuclear option through the money the government spends on Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and the Atomic Energy Control Board. I see a supplementary estimate here for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited of \$177,605,000 and \$37,934,000 having to do with the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Without getting into the larger debate about the appropriateness of nuclear energy as an energy option for Canada, which I reject and which I made obvious in my private member's bill that was debated and defeated in this House not so long ago, I wanted to say that we have a particular concern which I may raise in the House