

have tens of thousands of large corporations getting away scot-free.

However, in Canada the Conservatives have taken care of the large corporate sector so that now they are trying to nickel and dime a long distance tax from northern residents. Would they put a minimum corporate tax on the Bank of Montreal? Would they put a minimum corporate tax on General Motors, Nova Corporation, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Imperial Bank of Commerce? No, they would not touch those. But touch the Inuit and those people living in northern Canada and add a few dollars every week to their necessary telephone charges. It is absolutely disgusting what is going on. It is time that we allow members of the Conservative government to stand up and explain why we are nickel and diming every conceivable person in terms of tax increases. Why does it not bring in a minimum corporate tax so that the Bank of Montreal would be guaranteed to pay its fair share of tax every year, or Cadillac-Fairview pays its fair share of the tax? Why does it not bring in such legislation? Why does it bring in legislation that is going to put an extra charge on the telephone costs for all residents, and this particular clause draws our attention to the plight of those people living in Canada's north?

I stand down to await anxiously my Conservative colleagues across the way explaining why they feel this tax is necessary for a country which is the second largest in the world geographically. Being such a large country we should be sensitive to the fact that there some people who rely on telecommunications services and consequently bear a heavier share than others as a result of the huge country in which we live. I also ask them to explain why 60,000 profitable corporations get out of paying any income tax at all year after year, while the little shop at the corner store pays their fair share, the mom and pop shop pays their fair share, the person running the little welding shop pays his fair share, but not the Royal Bank of Canada, not Cadillac-Fairview, not Nova Corporation, not 60,000 other large profitable corporations that do not pay a single cent in spite of their hundreds of millions of dollars in profit year after year. I will step down and await some of my Conservative friends to explain those two items.

### *Government Orders*

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I want to enter this debate for a few moments. Most of the residents in my riding will not be impacted by the amendment put forward by my colleague, the member for Yukon, because most of my riding is not included in the northern tax area, although there are some areas that are in dispute and I understand that the hon. Rene Brunel will be handing down his report shortly. We are all waiting with interest to see what he decides in terms of the levels of support.

In northern Canada, in the northern parts of our provinces, there is a tendency over time to relocate seniors into larger communities. They are taken from the community where they have lived for years, whether it is a farm community or a mining community, and because of the way provinces have evolved they have put long-term care facilities in major centres. So seniors are being taken away from their families and moved to a central location. That is traumatic, but now, because of yet another tax increase, it will be more expensive for them to keep in touch with their loved ones, with their children, and vice versa, for the children to keep in touch with their mother or father in a long-term care facility.

The other thing that we are talking about, and that is why my colleague put forward the amendment, is it is not just the telephone calls that are being taxed but it is the reason for those calls. You are going to tax a call to the ambulance. You are going to tax a call to the fire department. You are going to tax a call to the police department. You are going to tax the calls of people looking for work, of doing a job search around their region, on top of the unemployment insurance cutbacks that this government is intent on doing, and making it much more difficult for the out of work individual to find gainful employment.

It is also going to impact on the cost of doing business in the north. Every cost that that small business or even large business has to endure, and a lot of the work today is done by telephone in terms of on-time delivery for inventory, will add to the cost of doing business in the north. That will result in two things. First of all, the obvious, which is higher prices to the consumer yet again. The second is one more disincentive for industries and businesses to locate in the north, and a greater incentive