

Excise Tax Act

This can be done in several ways. The government might admit its error and change the bill, or seek permission to change it. If the government stays with the bill and is determined it is going to have the whole bill and nothing but the whole bill, then it might have to consider withdrawing the bill and bringing in a new ways and means motion on which a bill can be based.

I think what was in Mr. Speaker's mind, if I can believe what I am told, is that with this situation before him he thought members might work out some form of arrangement. I am told by my colleagues on returning here that there was no such approach, discussion or suggestion. If Mr. Speaker did hold that the bill was defective, and it appears there has been no consultation and no arrangement under which the bill could proceed, then we would be in a very anomalous and foolish position if we proceeded to debate a bill which was not in order because it did not conform with the ways and means motion.

If there were any likelihood of there being consultation, approaches or propositions which might lead to the bill being changed to conform with the ways and means motion, if that is legally possible, then there might be some reason for Mr. Speaker's suggestion. At the moment we are waiting, but there has been no approach, discussion or consultation. The members of my party feel very strongly that this is a bad, vicious, punitive, and harsh measure. It might well be that if this bill is withdrawn, the new bill will not only be in conformity with the ways and means motion but will be a better and more reasonable bill as well.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. Hon. members who were here at the time of Mr. Speaker's ruling will remember that in rendering his decision he suggested the debate should continue. Mr. Speaker then called upon the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand (Mr. Knowles) to continue the debate, and that hon. member called it six o'clock. There was no opposition or suggestion at that time that the debate should not continue. Therefore, I feel the debate should go ahead.

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Madam Speaker, it appears that the bill before us is faulty in two aspects now, from a procedural point of view and also because of the substance, upon which I have already commented. As the debate finished at quarter to six, in order for Mr. Speaker to make his ruling, I was at the point in my remarks of drawing the attention of the House to the unfair and discriminatory aspects of this excise tax of 10 cents per gallon on gasoline.

It is wrong that the working person who has to commute daily to work, with no alternative, should bear the burden of this tax. I also want to draw another aspect to the attention of the House which I think is very harmful and very difficult to certain segments of our economy. However, in view of the procedural difficulties and the division in the House on this matter, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Halliday):

That the debate be now adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The question is on the motion of Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand), seconded by Mr. Halliday, that the debate be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand)), which was negatived on the following division:

● (2020)

(Division No. 61)

YEAS

Messrs.

Alexander	Halliday	Mazankowski
Alkenbrack	Hamilton	McCain
Baker	(Swift Current- Maple Creek)	McKenzie
(Grenville-Carleton)	Hnatyshyn	McKinley
Baldwin	Holmes	McKinnon
Beaudoin	Huntington	Muir
Benjamin	Johnston	Neil
Broadbent	Kempling	Nowlan
Clarke	Knowles	Nystrom
(Vancouver Quadra)	(Winnipeg North Centre)	Ritchie
Crouse	Knowles	Roche
Darling	(Norfolk-Haldimand)	Rodriguez
Ellis	Lambert	Saltsman
Elzinga	(Edmonton West)	Stanfield
Epp	Lawrence	Stevens
Fraser	MacLean	Symes
Gauthier	Malone	Whittaker
(Roberval)		Wise—47.
Gilbert		

NAYS

Messrs.

Andras	Chrétien	Faulkner
(Port Arthur)	Clermont	Fleming
Andres	Collenette	Gendron
(Lincoln)	Comtois	Gillespie
Basford	Condon	Goodale
Béchar	Corbin	Goyer
Bégin (Miss)	Côté	Guay
Blais	Cullen	(St. Boniface)
Blouin	Danson	Guay
Buchanan	Demers	(Lévis)
Bussièrès	Dionne	Guilbault
Caccia	(Northumberland- Miramichi)	Herbert
Campagnolo (Mrs.)	Dupras	Holt (Mrs.)
Campbell (Miss)	Duquet	Hopkins
(South Western Nova)	Ethier	Isabelle
Caron		Joyal
		Kaplan