

*Supply*

You are signalling that I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, I feel that the motion moved today must be defeated and that my friend the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre should wait until we introduce our White Paper on June 18 before making comments which might not reflect reality and, as my other colleague was saying, serve only to frighten Canadians. This is a responsible Government which is seeking a tax reform for the common good of Canadians and, in this context, I urge him to wait until June 18.

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, I was wondering at first why in opinion polls in Quebec, the Tories are third, the NDP people are second and Liberals first. However, after the speech which I have just heard, I understand why in Trois-Rivières, even the Rhinocéros Party leads the Conservative Party. I shall put my question to the Hon. Member. He boasts about the merits of his Government, about the capital gains exemption. His comments are timely. Mr. Alain Dubuc of the newspaper *La Presse*, who is neither a Liberal nor a Conservative, was not born yesterday, is not on welfare, and is better informed than the Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent) says: "The capital gains exemption is an indecent gift". If an Oscar were given for the most stupid tax measure, the capital gains exemption would win that award outright."

• (1610)

Now the Hon. Member is boasting about the eminent members of his committee who had all obtained contracts and were not ordinary citizens. Does the Hon. Member for Trois-Rivière approve or disapprove the comments of Alain Dubuc who is a reputable and unbiased economist? Has he some comments to make about Alain Dubuc? Is Alain Dubuc right or wrong?

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Hon. Member for Montreal—Saint-Marie (Mr. Malépart) by his more than partisan comments. I find it sad that he would attack my constituents of Trois-Rivières who worked hard to submit their views on tax reform and who unfortunately—and my colleague will be sorry to hear that—did not get any contract but have worked in good faith. They are accountants and businessmen who have voluntarily given their time to help their province and country. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it is unfortunate to hear in the House of Commons comments such as those made by the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie. I trust that when he is given the opportunity to rise, he will surely apologize to those people in Trois-Rivières.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question put by my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie, I did not read the above-mentioned report. However, I can say that the capital gains exemption introduced by our Government has definitely helped to create permanent jobs in Quebec and everywhere in Canada. And if it is a gift, it was a profitable one for all Canadians. I find it rather less absurd than the tax credit for scientific research implemented under the former Liberal government, under which some billions of dollars were wasted

and given away to Canadian and international corporations already making millions in profits. That seems to me to be much more aberrant.

**Mr. Cassidy:** Mr. Speaker, having listened carefully to the speech by the Hon. Member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Vincent), I should have thought that he would make no statement on the motion before the House today.

Finally, he indicates that he is not even willing to attempt to influence his Government to ensure that taxation of food will not be included in the tax reform proposals that the Minister of Finance will submit on June 18.

The Hon. Member is mistaken when he states that the Opposition is against fiscal reform. If he is referring to the New Democratic Party, I submit that our party has been pushing for fiscal reform. I was among the Members of our Party who travelled all across Canada to discuss tax reform with Canadians and to gather information as part of the 1986 Tax Probe project. I have recently given speeches on this topic in various communities in Ontario and Quebec. The Hon. Member is therefore mistaken to think that the New Democratic Party is not pushing for tax reform.

But then again, there is such a thing as the wrong kind of fiscal reform. I fear, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Member does not grasp the necessity of voicing a considered opinion on the specific initiative which the Government is proposing, that is to impose a 7 per cent, 8 per cent or 9 per cent tax on all purchases of food and grocery items in Canada.

I would perhaps want to put my question once again to the Hon. Member. He says we should look at the overall picture. However, I have given all kinds of reasons why the overall approach does not apply in the case of a tax on food products, which represent the most basic of basic necessities.

I would ask the Hon. Member, then, to say whether or not he is in favour of a sales tax on food.

**Mr. Vincent:** Mr. Speaker, I find it unfortunate that my colleague the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre is attempting to scare people. This is not the way Parliament was meant to work.

He has presented a motion and my response is as follows, Mr. Speaker. He should wait until June 18 before getting scared. You're afraid of being scared, of being afraid. Wait until June 18—

**Mr. Malépart:** Senior citizens have a long memory.

**Mr. Vincent:** Let him wait until June 18, Mr. Speaker, and then he can bring in 25 motions if he disagrees with the White Paper. At that time, I shall be ready to support him if there are things on which I disagree. However, Mr. Speaker, his timing is wrong and he should wait.

[English]

**Mr. Redway:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary will be aware, I know, that on average Canadian manufacturers pay one-third more tax than competing imports