

*Royal Assent*

every single wage earner who earns under \$8,000 a year will also pay less tax. This means that hundreds of thousands of people who heretofore have had to pay income tax will be removed from the tax rolls completely, and that several million more will have their taxes reduced significantly. Beginning next month all these people will find a few more dollars on their take-home pay cheque each pay day.

I take a great deal of pride and satisfaction from the fact that it is this government, the government that I support, that is bringing this about. This is a government concerned about fair treatment for all, a government concerned about social justice, a government concerned about all the people of Canada, not just a select few. I might also add it is a government that is willing to take and accept its responsibilities. When the time comes to vote on a particular issue, when the public is convinced the issue is a just one, this government brings the issue to a vote.

Another aspect of this bill that gives me a great deal of satisfaction is the benefits that will accrue as a result of the bill to our senior citizens. No single group will benefit as much as they. Comparatively speaking, they will get the greatest benefits of all. With the passage of this bill, the majority of Canadian citizens over 65 years of age will not be required to pay any income tax at all, and that is as it should be. These people who have been making their contribution to this country during their productive lifetime, through their hard work and payment of taxes, should not be required to pay income tax in their retirement years.

I have stated generally what I believe the effects of the legislation will be on the average Canadian, and I now want to look at some of the details of the legislation. I know these matters have been mentioned before, but perhaps they have not been mentioned often enough. First, and this is very important, personal exemptions will be raised to \$1,500 from \$1,000 for single persons and to \$2,850 from \$2,000 for married persons. In addition, a new innovation in the income tax system in this country will be the deductibility of child care expenses up to \$500 for

every child under 14 years to a maximum of \$2,000 per family. I am sure everyone in this House is aware of the many thousands of working couples. One member of the family, either of the two spouses, will be able to claim baby sitting expenses of \$500 per annum for each child up to a maximum of \$2,000. This has not been available before. It has been a great inequity in our income tax system.

• (5:50 p.m.)

The payments made to a baby sitter, day care centre or some other individual or institution for looking after children of people who are required to work could not be deducted as an expense, although it was as legitimate an expense in the process of earning income as almost any expense that could be claimed by business people in this country in their business operations. I welcome that as a very important step forward. May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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## THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the Royal Assent to the following bills:

An act respecting Central-Del Rio Oils Limited

An act respecting the Royal Victoria Hospital

An act to provide for the obtaining of information respecting weather modification activities.

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1972.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

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