

The Address—Mr. Broadbent

taxes for these same families. It isn't fair, Mr. Speaker, and it is not acceptable to our party.

[*English*]

If we leave the question of personal income tax aside, there is another important aspect of the equity of the tax system that Canada has ignored for so many years, and that is, corporate taxes. My Party has talked about this for the last couple of years and recently we have produced some documentation. Perhaps it is having some influence at least on the vocabulary of the Government, and perhaps because Ronald Reagan has started to do something along these lines in the United States, the Conservative Government just might be prepared to do something in terms of serious tax reform in this country.

In the last 20 years, corporations have been paying a smaller and smaller percentage of the income taxes coming to Ottawa and individuals have been paying more. Once again, if one looks at the effect of the two Budgets we have received from the Conservative Government, one will see that instead of reversing this trend, it has been exacerbated. For the first time in Canadian history, in just a couple of years with the present tax structure being in place, corporations will pay something like only 18 per cent of the tax burden while individual Canadians will have to pay some 82 per cent of it. That, Mr. Speaker, is not acceptable.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider the matter in this context. I say to my honourable Conservative and Liberal friends in the House that they should consider the implications of the document produced by two of my colleagues a week ago. This document was based on Statistics Canada information and showed the following: 79,000 profitable Canadian companies are paying no income tax. I emphasize that. If a company is not making a profit, no one objects to its not paying taxes. Of course not. However, men and women who will be following this debate and who pay their taxes are more than a little curious to discover that there are 79,000 profitable companies that are not paying any taxes. Beyond that, they will discover that 64 of these companies had profits in excess of \$25 million and did not pay a penny in tax.

There are a whole number of such corporations. The Power Corporation had profits of \$152 million. The Argus Corporation had profits of \$52 million. It paid no taxes. The Royal Bank has done very well. Profits to the Royal Bank just a couple of years ago were \$358 million and it did not pay any tax. Not only that but it actually threw another loophole into the tax system and received revenue from the federal Government. The Royal Bank did not do badly. However, I do not want to make a joke of this because it is not a joke. It is not a joke at all.

Poor people are paying, average people are paying, pensioners are paying, fishermen are paying and auto workers are paying taxes. A bank clerk who works at the Royal Bank pays more taxes than the Royal Bank itself. That has to change, Mr. Speaker.

Again there is no commitment. This is what I am addressing myself to. In the Throne Speech, all we got was a commitment to change the distribution of tax benefits for individuals. I have not the slightest doubt that we are moving toward a form of value-added tax in the business sector, a tax that will be passed on to individuals, so the net effect of tax changes in Canada will not be that the average Canadian is going to pay less but that the average Canadian will pay at least the same amount or more. We think it is time the Government said that the average family should be paying less taxes and the Government made sure that that happens.

I want now to turn to the issue of equality between the sexes. I am not going to rattle off a whole lot of very specific items that I think ought to have been in the Throne Speech. However, as I mentioned earlier, there is one item which has immense symbolic significance because of what it says about the future direction of the Government and the future direction of social policy, that is, the child care issue.

• (1430)

If one goes across this land and looks at families of varying income levels and looks at studies that have been done about how so many children in our land are being left with inadequate care while both parents work to bring home income, it becomes very clear that we need a national child care program with lots of flexibility to meet the varying needs of various families.

The Government has so often moved close to making a commitment but again has not done so in the Throne Speech. It has committed itself to continuing discussions about the possibility of establishing a day care or child care program. The people who have come together in a national association to advocate a child care program have advocated the most minimal kind of spending. They asked for \$320 million as a commitment in principle to this by the Government. That works out to approximately \$68 per child in Canada. It is time for the Government to stop talking about child care and start delivering the goods by making a commitment to that kind of spending.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Canadian men and women want the Government to be honest and equitable. That is clear. They want a government that will meet its commitments and not waste public funds. The Prime Minister promised as much during the election campaign two years ago. I agreed with him at the time. It was necessary to get rid of Liberal practices. And he promised as much two years ago. However, the Conservative Government continues to take action which casts doubts on its integrity in this matter.

The Government has decided to relocate the site of a prison from Drummondville to Port-Cartier, in the Prime Minister's riding. That was a bad decision, Mr. Speaker. This kind of practice must stop. Instead of eliminating wasteful spending and increasing the efficiency of the public service, such a decision results in needless expenditures and raises some doubt