tell us that we are living beyond our means. First of all, I cannot believe that we are living beyond our means when you compare us to other western industrialized countries. How can a country as rich in natural resources, as young in its population, and with such a small population be living beyond its means and spending so little on social programs? Perhaps the reason there is a deficit, and perhaps the reason there is a greater deficit under a Conservative Government, can be seen when you look at tax expenditures and see the amount of dollars and cents the Government collects or does not collect. Then you realize that the reason there is a deficit is that the woman who is a teller at the Royal Bank of Canada paid more in actual dollars and cents in taxes than the Royal Bank of Canada paid. Even though the Royal Bank of Canada had over $300 million in profits, it did not pay one cent in tax. In fact, the Government gave it a tax credit of some $6 million in 1982.

So you realize why we have the deficit when you see that there are over 79,000 corporations with a total profit of some $12 billion that did not pay one cent in tax. No wonder there is a deficit, because the Government has not been collecting the revenues from those who can and should be paying their fair share.

So when we talk about fighting the deficit, we realize that this Government, as did the former Liberal Government, is going to fight the deficit on the backs of the working people and the middle-income people. They are the ones who have seen taxes increase under a Conservative Government. They are not the ones who will benefit from half a million dollars capital gains tax exemption. They are not the ones who will benefit from an enriched program in the retirement savings plan. It will not be your average working person and salaried income person who will benefit, or the retired, or the young person who is out looking for a job. They will be paying more income taxes, and they will be paying more sales taxes as a result of the Tory Government and its policies, whereas the well-to-do will continue to reap even more and more benefits.

So there is this injustice in our tax system. The Government talks about tax reform. It is proposing that we will change this and finally set to right the injustices that most Canadians are beginning to realize are there and no longer accept. That means the Government will have to reverse in its next Budget everything it has set down in its Budget in the two previous years. It will have to be willing to reverse itself on capital gains. It will have to be able and willing to reverse itself on the other tax measures and giveaways that it introduced in the two previous Budgets. We will see, indeed, how serious it is when it talks about tax reform.

The Bill before us is complex, and in many ways it is unfortunate. I join with the spokesperson for the Liberal Party in saying that it is unfortunate that neither the Minister of Finance nor the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Hockin) deemed fit to lead in the debate on this Bill, even though last week we received the draft copy of the remarks of the Minister of State for Finance that he was going to give today in introducing the second reading stage on Bill C-23. Instead, the Parliamentary Secretary opened the debate on this Bill. I can understand why this might be the case. The reason is that because the legislation we are asked to approve is such a contradiction to everything that the Minister has been saying since this summer about tax reform, that it must be an embarrassment to the Government.

• (1640)

Because of these and other reasons, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis):

That the debate be now adjourned.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The House has heard the terms of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

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

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the Members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. de Jong), which was negatived on the following division:

• (1650)

(*Division No. 34*)

YEAS

Members

Allmand	Guilbault (Saint-Jacques)	Ouellet
Althouse	Hopkins	Parry
Benjamin	Keeper	Penner
Blaikie	Langdon	Riis
Boudria	MacLellan	Robichaud
Cassidy	Marchi	Rossi
de Jong	McCurdy	Waddell—28
Frith	Mitchell	
Garneau	Murphy	
Gauthier	Nicholson (Trinity)	
Gray (Windsor West)		