

Government Orders

this amendment which would strike down this proposed removal of the excise tax on gasoline is a very good move.

Clearly, farmers were required in the budget to provide almost \$500 million. That covers everything from crop insurance to grain and flour transportation, to the rail branch line rehabilitation program, and to grain and crop advance payments programs, the bill that we were debating last week, Bill C-36. It includes the dairy export program to the tune of \$12 million, the commodity-based loan program at \$15 million and the Canadian Dairy Commission program. That amounts to \$399 million. But the gas tax rebate system involves \$100 million, bang, every year.

This amendment proposes to reinstate that fuel tax rebate system which has been so beneficial to primary producers. I would hope that the members on the government side might take a second look at this with a view to retaining it because the impact on agriculture alone will be tremendous.

• (1530)

There will be similar impacts on fisheries, loggers, and people in other primary industries, but clearly for agriculture, it will be extremely harmful if the government does away with that rebate provision.

We are hoping as well that the government will back down on the whole arrangement for advance payments. Every farm group in this country is opposing the removal of the advance payment provisions of Bill C-36, which was also provided for in the budget of last April. Clearly, that is a very harmful decision that the government is proposing to take at a time when farmers are taking off their crops which provides up to \$30,000 of cash flow, so that the farmers are forced to deliver a crop at a time when there is a massive supply on the market driving down prices. Those two issues alone will involve the loss of millions and millions of dollars to the agricultural community.

I hope that the minister will take another look at this and consider accepting this amendment which I think will be very beneficial both to farmers and other primary producers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Calgary Northeast on a point of order.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): I would like to withdraw Motion No. 9 standing in my name on the Order Paper as it deals with garbage disposal. I think the hon. member for Nickel Belt who seconded it agrees.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is no longer the member's, the motion belongs to the House. Therefore, we must have unanimous consent. Do we have unanimous consent to withdraw Motion No. 9 by the hon. member for Calgary Northeast?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion No. 9 withdrawn.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Continuing debate with the hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening intently to the speakers before me. I have found their speeches stimulating and enlightening. I hope we do not hit a soft spot for the next five or ten minutes.

I think the member for Malpeque, Prince Edward Island scored some very good points talking about tourism and the effects of the increase in gasoline tax. Of course, the member for Nickel Belt can always raise the level in this House considerably with his sense of humour, but he also scored some very good points. He is the man who has been noting that there is a strange kind of silence from the other side of the House. After all, it is the government's measure. It is the government's proposal. This is what the Tories want to do to the Canadian taxpayers and yet there seems to be a conspiracy of silence from that side of the House, save one. I listened very closely to the hon. member for Calgary Northeast and the gentleman made a lot of good points. It is too bad that his colleagues on that side of the House do not listen to him more often.

As I was listening to the hon. member for Calgary Northeast, I thought there is a man who I would call a small "c" Conservative. I wonder where all the small "c" Conservatives have gone from that side of the House? Where are the small "c" Conservatives who believe in fiscal restraint? Where are the small "c" Conservatives who believe in fiscal responsibility? Where are the small "c" Conservatives who believe that the government should not be day in and day out reaching into the pockets of Canadian taxpayers and taking more and more? Where have all the small "c" Conservatives gone to? Mr. Speaker? Where is the party of Borden? Where is the party of Meighen, Bennett, Diefenbaker, and Stanfield? Where have all the small "c" Conservatives