

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered.

[Text]

*FORMER MANITOBA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Question No. 1,700—**Mr. McKenzie:**

Have any former Manitoba government employees (term, contract or otherwise) been hired in any capacity by any federal department, agency, Crown corporation or board since October 12, 1977 and, if so (a) how many (b) in each case, what is his/her (i) name (ii) job classification (iii) yearly remuneration?

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): The information requested is not readily available. To provide an accurate reply in its entirety would entail a lengthy and costly examination of all personnel files of every department, agency, board, commission and Crown corporation. The costs in manpower and time to undertake such a large amount of work would be exorbitant or prohibitive.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Friday, June 2, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-56, to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to authorize payments related to provincial tax reductions, be read the second time and referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I understand there might be some agreement—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) was the last speaker before the debate was concluded on Friday.

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I believe I have a few minutes of my time left to me. I am one of those across Canada who has been very concerned about the way in which parliament has been abused and the way in which people are losing all respect for this institution. What happened today can only confirm that this institution is a mockery and a farce.

Here is a government imposing closure because it wants to force upon one of the provinces something which that province does not want, something which every member of the Quebec

Income Tax Act

National Assembly voted against. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) is so incompetent that he has brought in a bill which he cannot get through by normal means. The people of Quebec do not want it, and now the government is forcing parliament to impose upon a province something which that province rejects.

If there were ever a demonstration of the government's incapacity to manage the affairs of the nation, we have it here. We have once again been shown that the Liberals have no capacity to govern this country, no capacity to keep it together. Has there ever been a government so insensitive to what this country is all about, so indifferent to the fact that it is a confederation, so insensitive to the needs and aspirations of people in the various regions? It has been demonstrated unequivocally for everyone that the present government is simply incapable of dealing with the issues which are coming before us.

● (1752)

The budget is really a very peculiar document. The Minister of Finance now says he is doing the same thing in all parts of the country, but he is not. It is not a question of a cheque going to everyone on the tax roll as of December 31, 1977, or something. That is an absolutely ridiculous proposition. It is ridiculous and hardly believable that we are debating a bill the central element of which the government has not told us about. Yet here we are trying to debate that bill. Presumably the government does not know what that element is, yet it brings in closure.

The situation is so preposterous that it makes "Alice in Wonderland" seem like Plato's logic. What we are doing to the parliament of Canada is absolutely incredible. When hon. members go around the country and talk to its citizens, they find over and over again that people are asking what is happening. They wonder what this institution is all about. When we try to explain something like today, people just cannot believe it, and that is understandable.

How can we possibly find ourselves in a situation such as this? The federal Liberals have said that there will not be different proposals for different parts of the country. That is what they thought. They are so incompetent that they do not know that there is a fundamental principle in public financial administration that people with the same taxable income should pay the same amount of tax. We have a government which has abandoned that principle. The Minister of Finance has said over and over again that he is doing the same thing in all parts of the country. What he is doing is not the same in all parts of the country. The federal government brings closure into this House of Commons to put through something which a government and a people do not want. He is violating every fundamental principle of proper taxation. He is not doing anything in terms of basic economics of this country, and that is a disgraceful situation.

However, there is one good side to this fiasco. Those of us who represent the province of Ontario and who have always had difficulty persuading the people in that province to follow