

*The Address—Mr. Godin*

There is something missing from the Speech from the Throne, as the hon. member who spoke before me pointed out. I refer to the 11 per cent tax, particularly on production equipment. This matter has been a continuing concern of mine. I discussed it at length during the course of the election campaign. I am aware, as I am sure all hon. gentlemen opposite are, of the tremendous problem, indeed the dilemma, faced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp). When the government is committed to such an extensive program of social security it must necessarily find the revenue. However, I should like to urge the Minister of Finance, in his general review of the tax structure prior to commencing the budget, to give careful consideration to the effect of this particular 11 per cent tax on production equipment on the competitive position of our manufacturing industry in order to ascertain if he can drop it. I might point out that my position on the 11 per cent tax is not an ideological position. It happens to derive from experience in my riding.

There is much that remains in the Speech from the Throne with which I should like to deal but time does not permit. It seems to me though that the Speech from the Throne begs a fairly fundamental question. It is this: Are the 265 members of this house, who have been elected by the people of Canada to get things done, high-minded enough and concerned enough about the tremendous burden of legislation that confronts them to put aside party differences, to call a moratorium on party hassles, and get down to the job they were elected to do?

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate you on your appointment to the post you now hold. We owe you the respect due to your high functions. On the other hand, you have won our admiration for the manner in which you have presided over our proceedings since the opening of the session.

I take this opportunity to greet the members of the two minority groups sitting around me. I am willing to admit that the two old-line parties here must have several men of talent to be able to indulge in this game of division they are playing now. A newcomer from Quebec like myself finds that kind of game most amusing, because in Quebec now, and this has been going on since 1962, those two teams are playing hand in hand. And especially as regards the riding of

*[Mr. Faulkner.]*

Portneuf which I represent, both the Conservative and the Liberal candidates were advocating the same program during the last election campaign. And the political organizers in our constituencies, whether they are farmers who know one another, workers in the same plant who have a drink together, agreed that there was no cause to worry since electoral coffers are filled by the same benefactors.

In the house, I have noticed differences of opinion between the government and the opposition. There are always disagreements when the possibility is being discussed of spending millions on services which might promote the welfare of Canadians right across the country. On the other hand, when the time comes, for instance, to squeeze out of the French Canadians a billion dollars to be handed over to their friends of the financial community as interest on the national debt, then the two groups are in complete agreement.

According to the Speech from the Throne, the government intends to wage war on poverty. In my opinion, as long as people's pockets are being emptied, it is useless to try waging war on poverty. As long as single and married workers are only allowed a deduction of \$1,000 and \$2,000 respectively for income tax purposes, a government cannot possibly be sincere about waging war on poverty and fighting for justice. So, every time the occasion arises, we will vote to have the tax deduction raised to \$2,500 for single people and \$5,000 for married people. We are of the opinion that if members of the house are entitled to a \$6,000 deduction, farmers and workers of Quebec and Canada as a whole are also entitled to a more generous exemption.

Furthermore, the government will never be able to talk about waging war against poverty as long as Canadians have to pay the 11 per cent tax on building materials used for the construction of homes or of any plant needed for the proper development of the country.

Similarly, one cannot sincerely talk about waging war against poverty when one neglects people of 65, as was done last week.

In this connection, I should like to point out that the great majority of hon. members seem to have forgotten their origin. When we speak of those who are 65, they do not seem to know whom we are talking about.

Now, among persons 65 years of age, there are Canadian mothers who managed heroically to raise their family with the meagre salary earned by their husband at that time.