

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, December 18, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

• (1105)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXCISE TAX ACT EXCISE ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Friday, December 7, consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, be read the second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of State (Government House Leader)): Mr. Speaker, there have been consultations with the Opposition House Leaders with respect to Bill C-12. As your Honour will know, there is a notice of Ways and Means motion which was accepted by the House yesterday with respect to certain provisions of this Act which have the effect of amending Bill C-12. We have had discussions and, if you are prepared to put this order to the House, Mr. Speaker, I think you will find, even in the spirit of Christmas, that there would be a decision to accept this order as an order of the House as follows:

That, the Order of the day for resuming debate on the motion of the Minister of State (Finance) for the second reading and reference to a Committee of the Whole of Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, be discharged and the Bill withdrawn;

Provided that a Bill based on the Notice of Ways and Means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act, concurred in on Monday, December 17, 1984, and on the Notices of Ways and Means motions to amend the Excise Tax Act and to amend the Excise Act, concurred in on Thursday, November 22, 1984, shall be deemed to have met the notice requirement, been introduced, been read a first time and, notwithstanding any Standing Order, to have reached the same stage in debate on a motion for second reading as the former Bill C-12, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, had reached; and

Provided that for the purposes of debate on a motion for the second reading and reference to a Committee of the Whole of the aforementioned Bill the time remaining pursuant to Standing Order 35(2)(b) shall be deemed to be six hours and 46 minutes.

If you are prepared to put that motion before the House, Mr. Speaker, I think you will find there is unanimous consent for the motion.

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to say on behalf of my Party that we do, of course, give unanimous consent after the consultations. I want to say for the benefit of anyone who is watching that what we did was

agree to accept amendments without having to go back over all of the debate that had already taken place. That in essence was what that long motion was intended to accomplish.

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, we also agree. We have been consulted and we give our consent.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Government House Leader have unanimous consent for the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is carried. Accordingly, the order for second reading of Bill C-12 is discharged and the Bill is withdrawn; Bill C-17, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and Excise Act, is deemed to have been introduced, read a first time and is now before the House as an order for resuming debate on a motion for second reading and reference to the Committee of the Whole.

Order discharged and Bill withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-17, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, be read the second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words on second reading of Bill C-17. It is important for Members to recognize that much of what was contained in Bill C-12 had been carried over from two previous Budgets, one on April 19, 1983, and the other on February 15, 1984, with some important additions that will bring welcome news to some hard-hit sectors of our economy.

Basically the major changes included in this Bill are the following. There is a special recovery tax which, to all intents and purposes, is an increase in the federal sales tax. It is interesting that the new Government is introducing as one of its first pieces of legislation an increase in the federal sales tax.