

*Income Tax Act*

billion. This money will come from Canadian consumers under the Canadian ownership special charge, which was imposed, we were told, to help Petro-Canada buy Petrofina. Petro-Canada has bought Petrofina for \$1.7 billion. Then we are told this charge is to help bail out Dome Petroleum, the gnomes from Dome, to the tune of \$500 million. That is not going to go ahead now. Still, this Government leaves the tax on.

Why, Mr. Speaker? Let me tell you what the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) has said. I hope the Minister of Finance is listening to me.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Always.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Good. Here is what the Minister of Energy said about the Canadian ownership special charge: "The tax stays and there will be no exception. But we are still studying what to do with the money". The tax stays but the Government does not know what it is going to do with the proceeds. The Government is going to keep the tax anyway. This is the group that was so upset about the consumer and how the consumer had to pay more for gas and oil products in 1979-80.

According to the *Toronto Star* for November 22, the Minister of Energy, who is a tough guy now he is in power, is not worrying about the Canadian consumer. He said: "The tax stays and there will be no exception. But we are still studying what to do with the money". That is the kind of government this country has. The Liberals do not care what you pay for gasoline or heating oil. They do not care what the poor widow in St. John's, Newfoundland pays for heating oil as long as they get their cent a litre, their 4.5 cents a gallon. But they do not even know what they are going to do with the money when they get it, according to the Minister of Energy. What a bunch!

This is why we are not supporting this legislation even though there are some good things in it. We are not going to delay the legislation. We are not interested in debating it for an unreasonable or an unconscionable length of time. The unreasonableness and the unconscionability in this House are all on the other side. We want to see this Bill go through because there are some measures which will help the business community and hopefully help a recovery. But we are not going to assist the Government in taxing the Canadian people long after this Government is defeated. That will be when this Government gets the courage to call an election, which has to be done by March, 1985. This Minister is asking us to impose taxes on the Canadian people that he has no moral right or authority to impose. He is planning the tax grab next fall when he might not even be here in power next fall. The election might be over by the fall of 1984. Yet the Minister is planning to make these changes that will come into effect in 1985 when he will be gone. He is considering only the political short term and nothing else. A special recovery tax is what the Liberals call the sales tax.

Then there is a new 6 per cent tax on telecommunications services. Every time you pay your cable company, you will pay 6 per cent more to the Minister of Finance. This is a new tax to be charged to you. Last September the Minister increased

excise taxes on alcohol 13.3 per cent and on tobacco 15.8 per cent. He was not considering the consumer then, Mr. Speaker. The poor devil who needs a cigarette because he gets so frustrated at this Government, knowing that it will be in power for another year or so, is paying 15.8 per cent more for it. If he is driven to drink, as hundreds of thousands have been by this Government, he pays another 13.3 per cent in excise tax. Never mind the six and five. The six and five only applies to the working guy. It does not apply to this Government.

When those tax increases were announced, the Minister of Finance said the growth this year would be 5.2 per cent in our GNP. Now he expects it to be between 4 per cent and 5 per cent, which is considerably less than he forecast. The Auditor General just brought down a report which shows an unsatisfactory situation in the forecasting methods of the Department of Finance. The Minister has not alluded to that yet. He has just brought in the Auditor General's Annual Report which states the Minister of Finance has deceived the public about the deficit. The official figures state a \$102.8 billion deficit in the last three years. The Auditor General says that the federal Government provides us with a distorted picture of our financial status, that it exaggerates the value of some assets and excludes certain liabilities. He says that in the last fiscal year the deficit was understated by \$5.3 billion. In other words, the deficit this year is not really \$31.3 billion, it is \$31.3 billion plus \$4 billion, \$5 billion or \$6 billion which the Government is hiding by using improper methods of reporting in its financial statements. But the Minister of Finance does not mention that.

The pattern of deviousness and deception continued in the Speech from the Throne when the Minister pretended that the provinces were going to get \$500 million more for health and hospital services. Then it turned out that this is one of the federal Government owned the provinces under the existing formula for transfer payments. The formula is tied to increases in the GNP. He owned the provinces \$500 million because the GNP figures were wrongly forecast for the last three years. This Government tries to pretend in the Speech from the Throne that this is new money for the provinces to help them with hospital care and health. That is deliberate and calculated deception. It is a lie. This Government has stooped so far now that it puts lies in the mouth of the Governor General when he reads the Speech from the Throne. That is one of this Government's main deceptions and lies which they gave the Governor General to read on December 7. It is a scandalous piece of business.

We do not know what the situation will be in Canada next year. We do know that the Canadian consumer is already suffering. All these tax increases will fall on consumers in the area of personal income tax and in the area of sales tax on all goods they buy, as well as in the area of gasoline and oil products. In the last two years their personal disposable income in Canada has declined almost 5 per cent. This Minister will hammer Canadian taxpayers and consumers whose disposable income has already gone down 5 per cent in the last two years. According to Statistics Canada, personal disposable