

Supply

There have been some other comments in the Province of Manitoba about the regressive payroll tax put in place by the NDP Government. Mr. Lloyd McGinnis, President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, said the city and the Province will have trouble attracting new industry if employers are faced with a payroll tax. This can be paralleled to the National Energy Program which drove the oil rigs out of Canada. Oil rigs were lined up for miles wanting to go to the United States where they would be welcome. What about all the industries that were affected in the Province of Ontario? Hundreds of them were affected by the National Energy Program. They were faced with lay-offs and loss of business because of this nationalistic National Energy Program put in place by the Liberal Government and fully supported by the NDP.

Alan McLaughlin, Chairman of the Manitoba branch of the Investment Dealers Association, said the tax could also force some firms to review their staffing needs. Leo Quigley, a salesman for CN Railways, said it could have a bad effect on employers. There is no question about that. Opposition Leader Sterling Lyon had been expecting a sales tax increase. We also have that in place, Mr. Speaker. Since we have had an NDP Government in Manitoba we have new taxes on gas, a workers' tax, new taxes on hydro, and an increase in the sales tax. So much for the so-called people's Party. Mr. Lyon called the payroll tax "a hidden sales tax." He said it will be passed along to consumers by employers. There is no question about that.

The Manitoba workers' tax has affected our hospitals. Municipal taxpayers may have to bail out rural hospitals. They are being swamped with red ink because of the Manitoba NDP payroll tax. Several hospital administrators said that the payroll tax is swelling their deficits. They do not know what they are going to do to get money.

Members of the NDP march around during federal elections stating that they are the only people interested in health care. But now the NDP Government has introduced a tax like this which puts an additional burden on our hospitals in the Province. I will be talking about that in the next federal election. I will be reminding the people of Manitoba of the false statements which the New Democratic Party always makes about health care when going into federal elections. The NDP Government says that all the fat has been sliced from its operations, and local municipalities may be asked to increase property taxes to help reduce the deficits. You can see that nobody has escaped this regressive tax in Manitoba. "The 1.5 per cent payroll tax is killing us", said one of the administrators who does not want to be identified. Taxpayers will not be happy about seeing a hospital tax. They certainly will not be happy about that. They will not be able to take on any additional employees in the hospitals because of the additional burden put on hospitals throughout Manitoba.

Also the NDP Government announced early in April that it would set up a venture capital plan and that it would be putting up a million dollars into this plan. It will be very interesting to see as time goes by how much venture capital the NDP attracts from other parts of Canada. All the NDP Government will attract to a venture capital scheme in an

NDP Province is fly-by-night groups. No doubt there will be some high risk ventures, with the people of Manitoba putting up the money for these fly-by-night groups.

I have some statistics here going back to when the NDP Government was in power between 1969 and 1977. They show that we had a loss of employment and a loss of job opportunities for youth at that time. These are statistics I received from an investment counsellor who was very actively engaged in assisting businesses to move out of the Province of Manitoba between 1969 and 1977. He gives a list of the moneys that were moved out. These are not figures one can obtain very easily. Not many investors like to put an ad in the paper or make any kind of announcement that they are moving out of a Province or a country together with their money. This investment counsellor points out:

Countries or for that matter provinces which have nationalistic, leftist or extremely strong bureaucratic tendencies make striving and successful entrepreneurs feel uncomfortable.

Businesses in Manitoba certainly are being left to feel uncomfortable with this Manitoba workers' tax.

I have statistics here of a number of businesses and individuals who moved their money out of the Province of Manitoba because they simply did not trust socialist Governments. I have statistics here from a number of firms and the billions of dollars that were driven out of the Province. This investment counsellor estimates there was a loss of up to 17,000 jobs for the group of individuals for whom he acted. So much for this venture capital deal being introduced by the NDP Government in Manitoba.

In closing I want to say that it is unfortunate that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James did not include mention of the NDP Government in Manitoba and what provincial Governments can do when they introduce regressive employees' taxes and place additional burdens on businesses. These things affect youth unemployment as well as senior unemployment, both male and female. That is the weakness of this motion.

I am sure there will be some other NDP speakers this afternoon. I hope they will make some comments and suggestions to the House. I hope they will pass the message on to their NDP colleagues in Manitoba to remove this regressive workers' tax which has placed such a burden on the businesses of Manitoba. As long as that tax stays in effect, there will be no jobs for youth or anyone else.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie). There are two points on which I would like him to comment. He has been busy criticizing the Manitoba Government rather than the federal Liberal Government. I am really quite shocked that a Conservative Member would leave the Liberal Government unscathed when he talks about a payroll tax, particularly when that tax was brought in by a Manitoba Government because of federal cutbacks in transfer payments. I am quite puzzled why this particular Conservative Member would choose to attack the New Democrats but failed to point out—