

Excise Tax Act

The amendments we are dealing with tonight are part of a continuing pattern of a tax grab that is obviously under way from now until January 1, 1991.

One thing I want to reiterate that many people on your left have stated, Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions, is that the one promise that we believe the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) will keep over the next 18 months will be that the imposition of the goods and services tax on January 1, 1991 will in fact be revenue neutral. The catch to all of that is that from the time when the taxes were announced until they are to be imposed in 1991, the Government obviously intends to take every penny it can out of the Canadian taxpayer by whatever means possible. That includes an increase in the manufacturers' sales tax from 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent. It also means this plethora of taxes we are being asked to vote on tonight, and as my colleagues have indicated previously we will oppose. Canadian taxpayers have to understand that this is part of a plan. The plan is not to reform the tax system. The plan is to attempt to bail out a Government that has doubled the national debt in the last four years.

We hear talk from members of the Government with respect to the deficit, and we hear talk about the national debt. There can only be one of two explanations as to why there has been this discovery over the last couple of months. If we give credit where credit is due, one has to take as a granted that the people in the Department of Finance last fall were prepared to support their Minister in an election campaign by stating that it was possible to implement \$16 billion in promises that the Conservative Party was putting forward to the people of Canada out of existing structures and out of existing revenues. Now, all those programs have been cut or scrapped, or they were just commitments and not promises, and a lot of semantical arguments have taken place.

People who were looking forward to day care, or an enhanced program for military equipment acquisition for the armed forces, or people who were interested in seeing the agenda of the Conservative Party, have to try to to fathom what has taken place. If the people who made the projections last fall were honest, then they made grievous mistakes and somebody should pay, not only the taxpayer of Canada, who always pays the Bill in the final analysis, but those people who made those

projections, who are responsible for them, and who backed up a series of arguments, including those of the Chairman of the Finance Committee who correctly pointed out last fall that the promises could not be kept and would result in a serious blow to the economic and fiscal situation of the country.

If, on the other hand, the people who made the projections last year were not only honest but competent, and in fact the Conservative Party misrepresented the state of affairs that we found ourselves in in this country, that is where push comes to shove. I believe that the people of Canada must, and it is their duty. I recognize that they believe that members of the Opposition, the NDP and the Liberal Party, will simply carp about those things, bring them up, and rehash them.

Canadians have to understand that we are going through a process, a turning away from traditional values and approaches to trying to help those people who need help the most into a Conservative agenda. As usual, the Conservative Party of Canada is running considerably behind events in Great Britain.

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom came into this very House and praised the Government for its good management, and praised its approach to international trade. We have had the agenda of the former President of the United States, in his second term. There is no doubt that the Prime Minister and the Government have enormous respect for the former President of the United States. He played footsie with the American public through his first term. In the American system the second term is the last term, and that may prove to be prophetic in Canada that the second term for people with a conservative agenda is the last term. There is no question that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) followed in the footsteps of his friend the former President of the United States.

• (2150)

Mr. McDermid: It is a little misleading that in the United States you are only allowed two terms.

Mr. Young (Gloucester): That is what I said. I said that it may prove to be prophetic here—

Mr. McDermid: They have a third Conservative term down there, too, just like we are going to have a third Conservative term here.