

*Bilingualism and Biculturalism*

alone look at anybody else's, if we were to support this kind of outrageous measure, this façade for a war against inflation, coupled with the minister's statement that he does not need the money. I do not mind being kidded and fooled a little bit; I do not mind a little horseplay and a few practical jokes. This might be funny to look at six months from now or a year from now, but it is not funny now to the victims of inflation. It is not funny when one watches the increases in profits after taxes of those people who are not affected by the minister's tax proposals. These are the people who ignore the needs of this nation, ignore the national and public interest; who think only of themselves and their few shareholders. These are the people who sit in boardrooms outside our borders and make decisions, without any concern or reflection about Canada, the place where they have all the privileges and where they can take without giving.

● (5:50 p.m.)

Until this government or any government brings in a meaningful tax reform and an equitable tax system no one in this group will support these patchwork, idiotic, stupid tax measures. They are just nonsensical. No evidence has been presented to show how a bill like this has worked in the past two years or, if it is passed by the House, will work in the coming year, "for the purposes of economic stabilization" in the minister's own words. What slightest bit of evidence does the minister have that in the past two years the measure has accomplished this? There is none. The fact is that the opposite took place. I will make a little prediction—and my crystal ball will not be any more cloudy than that of the Minister of Finance—that the opposite will take place also next year, whether or not this measure passes. This measure will not make the slightest difference to the government's phoney fight against inflation. It will have no effect on restraining the private sector. When I say, "the private sector" I am sure Your Honour realizes I mean the private corporate sector, including our lovey-dovey finance companies and our friendly bankers across the street.

I plead with the government to do something better than this. They have the brains and the talent, if they would just get rid of their outmoded beliefs and ideas, their 19th century Victorian concepts of running a nation. Forget about the surtax and bring in

legislation that, in a time of inflation will restrict those who take excess profits. The government could reduce profits by way of an excess profit tax or by way of selective price controls.

Give us a prices review board. We hear much about the government's concern about rising prices and about unjustified price increases which contribute to inflation. We have a Prices and Incomes Commission which, in my opinion, is the largest and most colourful wallpaper job I have ever seen. It is not going to do anything. It will not have any authority or any power. To my knowledge, it has not done any effective investigation into price increases over the past several months in several major industries in Canada. Let us put some teeth in the prices and incomes commission. That will do more to achieve the economic stabilization which the minister wants than a two bit measure such as this one—two bits from corporations, but much more than that from individual taxpayers.

There are many other ways in which the government could heed some of their own people. They could even heed the odd person on the opposite side of the House. They could heed the Economic Council of Canada. They could heed the Canadian Labour Congress, the pensioners associations, the Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union. I would not expect them to agree to and implement every demand placed on them by all these organizations, but surely they could change what they have been doing.

I will repeat that I cannot support such a measure and I hope the government will have second thoughts about it. I hope they will withdraw it and bring in other measures. Failing that, they could at least amend the surtax bill so that the taxes paid by each corporation would be equal to those paid by the individual.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

#### TABLING OF THIRD REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41 (2) I table herewith in both official languages Book 3 of the report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism.