

incentives do? How does it affect low income earners? What does it do for high income earners? Who is benefiting? And is it fair?"

● (1610)

Some specific places in this proposed Bill with which I want to deal, in order to point out the lack of fairness, is, first of all, the capital gains provisions. There is small mention of capital gains tax. It is a very minor change which takes into account a provision which has the effect of helping someone who has farm losses in the year in which he sells out. It is not exactly an incentive to people in the business of farming, but in fact has the effect, if you analyze it, of encouraging people to sell out because they will be able to declare their farm losses.

This is contrary to what we expected from this Government, because when you read the missive which was sent out from the Liberal national campaign headquarters in January 30, 1980, during the last election campaign, you find that one of the few promises made by the Liberal Government, in order to maintain its commitment to the protection of the family farm, was to effect changes in the Income Tax Act which would allow capital gains to be calculated on the basis of imputed value on December 31, 1971 or December 31, 1974, whichever is greater. That change of the valuation day to allow the valuation to occur December 31, 1974, has not been mentioned in the two Throne Speeches we have had. It has not been mentioned in the several Budgets and the many changes to the Income Tax Act which have come before this House. It has been totally ignored.

We have been calling for the Government to act on that promise and to comply with some of the changes which a few of the provinces have implemented and which recognize special problems in saving up for retirement which farmers face. We have suggested it take a leaf from the book of Saskatchewan which allows a further deduction of \$100,000 for farmers who sell their farm on retirement in order to put them more or less on a par with people in the cities who have the option of retiring and writing off the value of their home and property in which they have lived throughout their working life.

We recognize the fact that farm homes usually receive very little recognition of value when the land is sold. The farmstead and the house itself usually do not contribute anything of significance to the value of the property when it is being sold.

There are a number of inequities which have been added as the tax law has been changed on an ad hoc basis over the past number of years since the Carter Commission, when we attempted to start afresh and say, "A buck is a buck and everyone will pay tax on money which is earned, regardless of how it is earned". We have now got into—

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. I apologize to the Hon. Member for interrupting him, but what we are seeing on the television monitor, while an Hon. Member has the floor and is supposed to be the only person being shown, is the Speaker and not the Hon. Member. I would like to ask the Chair to look into this matter.

Income Tax Act

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): As a matter of fact, I have noticed from time to time on the monitors that the television cameras are not necessarily perfectly related to the person whose microphone is open.

Mr. Evans: They are showing you, Mr. Speaker, not the Hon. Member.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The point is well made by the Parliamentary Secretary and it will certainly be taken up by the authorities of the House.

The Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre.

Mr. Althouse: I think the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) for bringing to the attention of the House the fact that I was not being Edgar Bergen to your Charley McCarthy, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Evans: You are not shown to your constituents full-time.

Mr. Althouse: That is right. The question of equity has surfaced a number of ways in the ad hoc changes which have been made to the Income Tax Act. I believe I have time to cite one specific point which has to do with the ISIPs, which would allow individuals to have a special deal with regard to capital gains tax, provided that they invest in publicly traded stocks. The way that the operation works is—

Mr. Evans: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The same thing is happening again. The Speaker and the Table officer are on the monitors and the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre should be the only person, according to our agreement with the television service, who should be shown on television. It must be the Hon. Member who has the floor. I request that that be looked into immediately, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The reason the Hon. Member sees me in discussion with the Table officer is that he had been asked to go to the telephone with respect to this problem. I understand there is the usual explanation—

Mr. Bosley: Technical difficulties beyond our control. Please do not adjust your set.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): There are technical difficulties. As far as the remark, which I appreciate, from the Hon. Member for Don Valley West (Mr. Bosley) is concerned about not adjusting your set, I do not believe there is a thing in the world we can do about it for the moment, unless the House would like to take a two or three minute break to see whether repairs can be effected.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): If the camera can be focused on the Chair, it can be focused on the Hon. Member who is speaking. If there is that kind of technical difficulty, then cut the transmission and let the Hon. Member go on with his speech. Let us stop being foolish.

Mr. Fisher: I have a further point of order.