

Members opposite obviously are ashamed of that tax. That is why they are doing all this yelling and interrupting because they do not want to hear how bad this is.

Mr. McDermid: The Liberal Party suggested that. The Member from Etobicoke suggested that.

Mr. Milliken: Let me read from a speech given at the time of the introduction of this Bill by the Hon. Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Loiselle). Hon. Members opposite will want to hear these pearls of wisdom from their own front bench.

He said, as reported at page 2640 of *Hansard*:

The federal sales tax is also the centrepiece of another key element of our strategy to strengthen Canada's economy and preserve essential programs.

Of course their idea of essential programs and everyone else's apparently are different. We have cuts in VIA Rail which we consider exceedingly important. We have cuts in defence spending which we did not in every case consider quite so important, but in certain cases we consider extremely important, and we have unfair tax measures. Those are what are called essential programs apparently by the Minister of State (Finance). He went on at page 2642 of *Hansard*, and referring to the Budget, he said:

It recognizes the need to build on our progress to date and to take firm action at this time to ensure that we can pass on to the next generation the ability to protect and strengthen the fundamental values that are so much a part of life in Canada.

I wish we knew what were the fundamental values that the Minister of State (Finance) thought were so much a part of Canadian life. It seems to me that this Government has done irreparable harm to all those values in this Budget. One of the values that we as Canadians have cherished for years is the element of fairness in the tax system, and I suggest that the changes proposed in Bill C-20 that hike that most regressive of taxes is hardly what could be called fair. Indeed, it is contrary to the values of Canadians who believe that fairness in the tax system is an essential principle upon which our country operates.

I do not want to let my hon. friends on my left think that I am ignoring them. Of course their views on the subject of budgets are very important, too. I had prepared this speech to deliver on the day that we started discussing this measure, on June 6, and I had a very

timely newspaper account that I had received that day which I thought was going to be of some assistance. I realize it is a bit dated now, but the New Democratic Party always tries to blame tax changes on us. We heard it earlier today where they were maintaining that there was some kind of alliance between this Party and the Progressive Conservative Party. Everybody knows that is rubbish and nonsense. It is more frequent, it seems to me, that the New Democratic Party agrees with the Progressive Conservative Party. They often agree on various things because once you get around the circle of political spectrum, the right and left tend to meet, and that is what is happening here.

I want to read a quotation from *The Winnipeg Free Press* of June 4, 1989. It was a report of a speech that was being delivered by their Leader, the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent). I guess he was making what was to be his swan song before the Manitoba Liberal Convention—sorry, not the Liberal—the Manitoba New Democratic Party Convention. There is more mention of Liberals and Conservatives in this than there is about NDPers. But then there are more of both in Manitoba, I am told.

This is apparently paraphrasing the Hon. Member for Oshawa:

While the Conservatives talk about the sacred trust during elections and break that pledge in power, the Liberals talk like New Democrats when wooing votes and act like Conservatives after the polls close.

An Hon. Member: When?

Mr. Milliken: This is what the Hon. Member for Oshawa said. He continued:

One happens to be in power. The other happens to be in opposition.

The thing that is peculiar about that, Mr. Speaker, and you will see in a minute why, is that he was speaking in a province where the New Democratic Party had been in power, and it was suddenly no longer even in opposition. It was reduced to third-party status. The reason it appears that that happened was that the New Democratic Party government began to act like a Conservative Government while it was in office. It started raising taxes the way this Conservative Government is doing here in Ottawa. The people of Manitoba had the good sense to give them the heave ho. I will read the rest of this excellent article. The article continues: