

Income Tax

is another thing. I may not be filling it well, but the responsibility to the people of Canada remains where it has been for the last thousand years. This is the only institution I know of that lies between the taxpayers of Canada and greedy governments, call them what you will.

Members today, unfortunately, are only too prone to be yes men to the faceless group behind the government. In the 12 years that I have been here I cannot track them all down, but somewhere somebody seems to be calling the punches and some way we seem to be able to do very little about it. I still think that if every one of the 265 members got up in their places and talked they would prove that the most powerful weapon on earth to get things done is the human tongue.

I suggest that it may be important that we have an all-party caucus. It is not good enough to take the important issues facing this country and hide them in committees or in committee reports which will rest on the table forever. The only way I know that we can be effective is to get somewhere behind closed doors and get things done. We cannot wait 20 years for relief from double taxation and I do not even think that we can wait until we get a consensus in the Chateau Laurier this afternoon. Even if we did get a consensus, there are 70 Conservatives down there and we know that when they come up with their report it will be misinterpreted. Someone will say that we are against this sort of relief. But we know where the crux of the matter lies; we are not taxing the proper people. If it is socialism to say that the fellow who is making the big profit should pay big taxes I will go along with it. But I will not say it is a sin to work or to put your back into the job, and that the fellow who does the work should pay the shot for everybody who does not want to work.

• (4:30 p.m.)

Sooner or later we shall all have to say to the Canadian government that we want fewer white papers and more green paper in each pocket. Canadians want more money left in their pay envelopes after they have payed taxes to all three levels of government. It is our responsibility to tell those attending the federal-provincial conference that all three levels of government are taking more than 50 per cent out of every man's wage dollar. As members of Parliament, members of provincial legislatures or of city councils, we have

arrogated unto ourselves the right of spending the taxpayers' money on project A, B, C or D or on this priority or that. I do not think the people of Canada will stand for this much longer. They do not want to see us hiding behind the constitution. We say, "Blame the provinces." The provinces say, "Blame the federal government", and everybody says, "Blame the municipalities". The cities are here to stay and we must find some rational way of financing them. I hope the provinces are here to stay, because I would not like to see the federal government becoming so strong that provincial rights will not be respected. Believe me, regional disparities will never disappear unless the provinces remain strong and in control of their own affairs.

Mr. Gilbert: Don't talk it out, Jack.

Mr. Bigg: We cannot shrug off our responsibility by blaming someone else.

Mr. Gilbert: Don't talk it out.

Mr. Bigg: No. I will not talk it out. I have just about finished. An examination of these questions is long overdue. We should give homeowners of Canada and those paying rents in Canada immediate relief from double taxation.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 40 to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Social Security—Inquiry as to tabling of white paper; the hon. member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. Muir)—Cape Breton Development Corporation—Request by union official for apology by minister; the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin)—The Canadian Economy—Inflation—Alleviation of fiscal burden.

The hour for consideration of private members' business having expired, pursuant to special order of the House made earlier this day I do now leave the Chair until 8 p.m.

At 4.37 p.m. the House took recess.