

## Income Tax Act

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair to resume the same at 2 o'clock p.m.  
At one o'clock the House took recess.

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Just before lunch, Mr. Speaker, we were talking about some of the sins of omission and commission on the part of this government, and some of my remarks aroused criticism from the government benches. I had reference to the arrogance and ineptitude of this government as evidenced by this flouting of the law. Since that time some newspapers have put today's editions on the streets. Let me point out that if the government is otherwise, at least we have an active, fair-minded and enlightened press. Let me read what the press states today regarding the flouting of the law as contained in the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act, and the government's precipitant rush to pass Bill C-244 in face of the demands of the country that it pay what it owes the farmers. Today's *Globe and Mail* states:

The cause of any present obstruction is the government;

The government has been accusing the Official Opposition and all other opposition parties of obstruction, but the *Globe and Mail* says today that the cause of this obstruction is the government. The *Globe and Mail* also states:

The government, rather, should deal frankly and conscientiously with the points the opposition has raised with regard to the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act. It should accept the law as it is on the books until the law has been changed: a touch of honesty would give it an unexpected and refreshingly new complexion.

I believe I made my point just before one o'clock when I referred in no uncertain terms to the government's arrogance toward Parliament and the Canadian people; in this case the arrogance is toward that large and important sector, the wheat growers of western Canada. The *Globe and Mail* goes on to state:

After that it should get on with the job of facing the real issues that confront and frighten Canadians.

That is why I said at the beginning of my remarks that we are living in ominous and perilous times, which the government seems to completely ignore. We should get on with the real issues that confront and frighten Canadians. These issues are large and important, and they are immediate. The *Globe and Mail* then states:

What the government does about them will be the real basis on which the country will judge the performance of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on Parliament Hill.

The *Ottawa Journal*, which was delivered a few minutes ago, has an article under the heading "Farmers suing Benson for grain funds". This is a fine situation the government has created for Canadians today. The article reads:

The cloud surrounding the Prairie Grains Income Stabilization Act has become a thunderhead.

The farmers seek a writ of mandamus against Finance Minister Edgar Benson, and their application was filed in Regina Wednesday and is to be heard on October 6.

• (2:10 p.m.)

I just digressed for a few minutes from the gist of my speech in order to make those points. I was talking about how the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister have confused the word "reform" with the word "proliferation". The Finance Minister and his hirelings have done an excellent job of proliferating in the tax field, just as the Prime Minister is doing a glaringly excellent job in the proliferation of parliamentary secretaries as of yesterday and today.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mahoney:** A very worthy group.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** The government have touched on virtually every aspect of taxation, but they have settled nothing. Behind the flurry, behind the smokescreen of alleged reform, we see that the same people will carry the tax burden. True, a million and half people will be relieved of some of that tax burden, but they were not in the first place the ones who were carrying the main load.

**Mr. Mahoney:** Five and a half million.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** So we see that the people in the categories above those who will now be relieved will carry that burden, and indeed a greater burden. We see that instead of true reform, the government will be taking a still larger bite out of those who are told by the government that they will be spared.

The Finance Minister is quick to state that some one and a quarter million taxpayers will be removed from the taxrolls under the proposed tax reforms in Bill C-259, and we are told that our magnanimous government itself will stand the loss. We have been told that Big Brother will pick up the tab. This is one area where I would be safe in charging that the Finance Minister has resorted to deception. There is no way in which a spendthrift government like this one would remove a million people from the taxrolls without knowing in advance that at least an equal amount of money would be coming from another source. The clear fact is that a very large percentage of those taxpayers will not be removed from the rolls, and this was pointed out graphically by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in the last session of Parliament.

While the Finance Minister makes much of the increased exemptions for single and married persons, he avoids mentioning the fact that the increased rate of taxation will wipe out that advantage for a large percentage of taxpayers in the lower income brackets.

**Mr. Mahoney:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** The Finance Minister has also neglected to point out that the new sliding scale of taxation will catch up very soon with another large group of taxpayers within two or three years. Thus, we learn that Big Brother is not picking up the tab at all. We learn that the increased taxes which will flow into the federal coffers will originate from the very same source. We learn that the same people who are paying the shot right now will just keep on paying the shot.

I can understand how the Minister of Finance could stray so far off the path so consistently when he attempts