

[Texte]

\$10. If it comes from a man who is paying in a 50 per cent tax rate, he is, in effect, giving only \$5 of his own money. The same \$10 coming from a man who is paying only 20 per cent, means he is providing \$8 of his money.

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I think the argument for the tax credit is that a dollar from a rich and a poor man is treated in exactly the same way and that in some way they thought that contributions to political parties are reviewed in a somewhat different way than contributions to charity, artistic purposes and so on. So the argument really then is on the basis of equity, that contributions be treated similarly for tax purposes whether or not the person were in a high or a low tax bracket.

Mr. Forrestall: Do you favour some form of public financing of candidates at times of general and special elections?

Dr. Paltiel: Yes, I would support this. I think that the Quebec system has worked out well. I think my argument is clear in the book. I think that the principle could be extended to parties.

Mr. Forrestall: It would be nice if we could move to have your book appended to the record, but I wanted your view on the record.

Dr. Paltiel: I think that the principle, using a very similar scheme, could be worked out. The European schemes are not applicable for the simple reason that they work on a proportional representation system. There are really no candidates. There are party lists. Neither is the Puerto Rican system really applicable either.

The Chairman: Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker: Could we get back to the Florida disclosure comments? You mention that disclosure apparently did not discourage the large contributors.

Dr. Paltiel: From the evidence that is available, yes.

Mr. Walker: And this could well be because these huge contributors are big enough that they have no fear of being penalized by a government which perhaps they did not support. Did you find that this disclosure at all hit the much lower group, the small business which does depend...

Dr. Paltiel: The evidence that was presented to us—I really have to depend here on third-hand sources. The man who has done most of the work is a man by the name of Roady—is that the contributions now tend to be somewhat larger. This may or may not be interpreted along the lines you have interpreted it.

Mr. Walker: I was wondering if the funds were coming from fewer people...

Dr. Paltiel: And somewhat larger. I think there may be increased numbers. I think that the report does have some evidence of this.

Mr. Walker: In connection with the way they are doing it in Quebec, reimbursement to individual candidates—I am not talking about parties now—if that principle is

[Interprétation]

donne, en fait, que \$5 de sa poche. Une autre personne qui gagnerait moins, fournirait, par exemple, \$8 de sa poche.

L'argument en faveur du dégrèvement du crédit d'impôt est que les contributions au parti politique sont un peu différentes des contributions aux institutions charitables. L'argument est un argument qui se base sur l'équité sans tenir compte du fait que la personne qui donne son argent se situe dans une haute ou une basse catégorie d'impôt.

M. Forrestall: Êtes-vous en faveur d'un genre quelconque de financement public des candidats en temps d'élections générales ou partielles?

M. Paltiel: Personnellement, je serais en faveur de cet argument. Je crois que le système du Québec a été très bon à cet égard.

M. Forrestall: Il serait bon de publier votre livre en annexe, en appendice au compte rendu.

M. Paltiel: Je crois qu'on pourrait trouver un système semblable. Les modes d'élection européens ne conviennent pas, étant donné qu'ils sont fondés sur la représentation proportionnelle. Les candidats n'existent vraiment pas. Seules les listes de parti existent. Le système portoricain ne convient pas, lui non plus.

Le président: Monsieur Walker.

M. Walker: En ce qui concerne la divulgation de l'État de Floride, vous avez dit que la divulgation n'a pas découragé les dons.

M. Paltiel: C'est vrai, si l'on s'en rapporte aux témoignages.

M. Walker: C'est probablement parce que les grands contributeurs sont tellement importants qu'ils n'ont pas peur de continuer à donner leurs contributions au parti. Cependant, en ce qui concerne les petits contributeurs...

M. Paltiel: J. Rowdy qui a fait les études a prouvé que les contributions ont tendance à être plus importantes à l'heure actuelle. Je ne connais pas la raison.

M. Walker: Serait-ce que les fonds proviennent de contributeurs moins nombreux...

M. Paltiel: Un peu plus importantes. Il se pourrait que les contributeurs fussent plus nombreux. Les témoignages semblaient confirmer ce point de vue.

M. Walker: Quant à la manière dont les choses se passent au Québec, le remboursement accordé aux candidats eux-mêmes (ici, je ne fais pas allusion aux partis), si