

*Government Orders*

services. This compared with an average of \$206 per year for subscribers in the Bell territory as a whole."

• (1210)

So now we are punishing people because they live in these nether regions of our country where we have been encouraging and trying to encourage people to go and settle and develop this country of ours. What this government has come along with is a tax on the ability of those people to communicate with each other even within their particular area which necessitates a long distance call.

I cannot understand, and I know that I am speaking for many Canadians, who cannot understand the mentality of a government like this. Outside of the member for Calgary Northeast, an honourable gentleman who spoke in support of this motion, they are all sitting on their hands. They will all sit. Why? Because their big boss has whipped them into line.

There are very few members on the other side who are prepared to throw off the whips of tyranny of Brian Mulroney and his honchos in the cabinet. There are very few of them willing to stand up and be counted: Canadians are waiting to hear them because we have to be united in defeating this tax hungry government. It is the only way. I say to Conservatives on the other side all we need is 20 of you to change positions. We beg you for one simple little vote. Vote with the opposition and send a message to this government. Vote for your own constituents and show them that you are representing their best interests. Surely you are not going to go along like a bunch of trained seals; somebody was so unkind as to call them lemmings. Surely you are not going to sit up and when a fish is thrown clap your flippers and say: "Aye, aye, Skipper." Surely, there are 20 of you over there who will hear the cry of the people saying: "Save us from this tax-crazy government. Relieve our burden of taxes, upon taxes, upon taxes." Surely there are 20 of you who can respond positively to the call.

**Mr. Dick:** Don't have a heart attack.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** This government is going to give a lot of Canadians a heart attack with what it has proposed. It is not enough that it will gyp them 11 per cent, but if you live in the province of Ontario you get 8 per cent put on top of that. You have a multiplicity of tax upon tax.

In a spirit of conciliation I reach out to brothers and sisters over there. We need 20 good men and women who will join with us to defeat this iniquitous tax proposal.

I know there is a thing called whips and discipline over there.

**Mr. Dick:** What cuts are you proposing?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** We are talking about this particular tax measure that the government has proposed. I am glad you raised that. Why don't you put a tax on mergers and corporate takeovers like the Americans are going to do? Last year we had takeovers of \$5 billion. Just imagine if you put on a little 9 per cent tax. After all it is a sales tax. Somebody is buying something. Put on a 9 per cent tax. Look at what we could gain.

What about going even further? When one corporation wants to buy out another, it borrows money and is allowed to write off the interest on the money used for the take-over. They have not created one new job, but they are allowed to write off the interest on the money they borrowed for the take-over. Does that sound fair? No, it is not fair. That is why I appeal to 20 people over there. If they have any courage of conviction, on this one occasion join with us and let us defeat this. Let us strike a blow for ordinary Canadians. Let us strike a blow for working men and women in this country.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have a chance to follow my hon. colleague who pointed out very clearly how the New Democrats feel about one more tax grab in the long march of tax grabbing.

The point that my hon. friend for Nickel Belt made was very appropriate. Not only is this an attack on working people and their families generally, it is an attack especially on certain Canadians. We consider that it is a part of a process that we have seen, and I refer to the general sales tax.

Obviously some Canadians are going to be hit harder by the general sales tax than others. Those people who live in the northern parts of Canada, the more remote regions will be hardest hit. For example, those Canadians who have to buy winter equipment, a lot of snow tires, all sorts of extras like snow clothing, and an excessive amount of heating fuels and so on, relative to southerners. In Vancouver you do not have to buy snow tires or snow clothing. Obviously, in Whitehorse, Prince George,