

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

state his position, not within the whole context of the white paper but within the context of a few ideas?

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the minister has asked me in his absence to reply tonight to the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) who has described himself, I think fairly and aptly, as a mild fellow, and I might say one who is fairly concerned, as are all Canadians, about the proposals for tax reform. This is the sort of discussion that can surely only further the objective of all of us, to have a fair system of tax reform.

The hon. member for Etobicoke (Mr. Gillespie), who made a speech to the Petroleum Accountants Association in Jasper last Thursday, made it abundantly clear in his remarks that he was speaking personally, and this of course is the right and indeed the duty of all Members of Parliament. In commenting on the speech made by the hon. member for Etobicoke I think the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants probably had reference to the *Globe and Mail* report. That report set out accurately the five special areas that the hon. member dealt with in his remarks. These remarks, Mr. Speaker, are the sort of expression of opinion that the government wants from everyone in Canada. It has been repeated many times that the reason the government put forward its proposals in the form of a white paper is in order that the public will have an opportunity to express its views.

The hon. member for Etobicoke raised the question of whether gains on shares in widely-held companies should be subject to taxation on a different basis than a gain on the sale of shares in other companies, or gains from the sale of other assets, and the distinction between public and private companies with respect to a credit to be given to shareholders in respect of income tax paid by the corporation. This is a very important part of the proposals affecting the taxation of gains and companies, and views about whether it will work or will not work are exactly what the government has requested. The hon. member also made a suggestion for assistance to small corporations. This is an area where a great deal has been said in opposition to the proposal to withdraw the low rate of tax on the first \$35,000 of corporation taxable income, but very little has been put forward by way of an alternative.

[Mr. McCleave.]

The government has urged those concerned to make suggestions for ways in which the special problems of small business could be recognized, but not too much has been forthcoming. The government hopes that more Members of Parliament and members of the public will follow the example of the hon. member for Etobicoke and make constructive suggestions in this area.

CRIMINAL CODE—ABORTION—INTRODUCTION
OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, the "late show" is probably not a very encouraging spot to speak on an issue as vital as the need for updated abortion legislation. Yesterday I tried to get an emergency debate on the matter and it was ruled out of order. Then I asked the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) whether the government contemplated emergency legislation and he told me that no immediate changes were in view.

I call attention to the fact that the public and the press across the country continue to regard the situation of abortions, illegal and otherwise, as a dangerous and growing menace. Newspapers like the *Montreal Star*, the *Windsor Star*, the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and the *Vancouver Sun*—those four at least, to my certain knowledge—have written editorials pointing out that the present abortion legislation is completely inadequate and needs updating. Evidence about this is coming in from all sides. Here in Ottawa the Association for the Modernization of Abortion Laws has informed me that sometimes it gets as many as ten calls a day from women wanting to know how they can get an illegal abortion or, more properly, illegal in Canada but legal in Britain, Scandinavia and now in New York.

• (10:10 p.m.)

I myself have had a number of telephone calls from women employed in the public service who, finding themselves pregnant, in poor health or in difficult family circumstances and not knowing where to turn, are desperate. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* carried a very impressive editorial on Tuesday. It quoted a prominent obstetrician as saying that he would hazard a guess that there are at least, nationwide, as many abortions as there are births. When one reflects that in Canada last year there were 370,000 births, one can see that this problem has important and grave dimensions.