

Excise Tax Act

Sooner or later, people will come to their senses on the other side and desert the Government in sufficient numbers that bad Bills like this will be defeated on the floor of the House of Commons and we will go to the people to let them decide whether a Bill imposing these kinds of taxes is what they want.

I want to deal with Bill C-20 in the context of the leaky Budget that Members will recall was introduced in the House on April 26. Let me refer to some figures prepared by Global Economics Limited, an Ottawa based economic consulting firm which did an in depth analysis of the income distribution implications of the Budget. They have developed a new social policy simulation data base and model. Apparently Statistics Canada refers to it as "a powerful new tool with which to analyse the impact of tax and social policy changes". So it is widely acknowledged to be an extremely effective computer model which is quite useful for doing the kind of economic analysis which is helpful in determining the effect of the tax changes that have been introduced.

• (2050)

When this Budget has been fully implemented—the Hon. Members should try to contain themselves. I know they will want to make speeches later. I know the Hon. Member for Winnipeg South will want to speak in this debate, because her constituents will want to see her views on this Budget. They will want to know how much she supports this kind of Bill that taxes them to the hilt. I do not believe they are in favour of these tax changes, and she may want to remember that come next election.

When these budget measures have been fully implemented, the additional tax burden per family will on average across Canada be \$382 per year more out of people's pockets. Let us hear the really unjust part. If you do not think that is unfair, Mr. Speaker, of that \$382, \$151 of it will be in personal taxes; that is, in income type taxes. The remaining \$231 will be in consumption taxes, sales taxes, the kind we are discussing in this wicked Bill tonight that the Government is suggesting that we pass.

I want, as a passing note, to remark that this Bill, having been debated once in this Chamber for a matter of hours on Tuesday morning, June 6, is now being brought forward for debate starting at about 7.40 p.m. tonight under closure. This Government is trampling on the rights of Parliament in order to force this unpopular

Budget on the people. A Liberal Government has never used closure on any budget bill. This is a complete breach of parliamentary practice. It is a shocking display of the inability of the Government to come to grips with the fact that it was elected to be responsible to this House of Commons. That is what it was elected to do and it is not being responsible. It is trampling all over this House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Milliken: Hon. Members laugh at the trampling of the rights of Parliament. Eighty-three per cent of Canadian families will see their after tax income drop as a result of this Budget. Indeed, half of those whose earnings are less than \$25,000 a year will see their after tax incomes drop.

This Budget is particularly hard on the elderly. One million, three hundred thousand elderly Canadian taxpayers will experience a decline in 1990 in their after tax income as a direct result of this Budget and of the tax measures contained in Bill C-20 that we are discussing tonight.

An Hon. Member: It is not funny.

Mr. Milliken: It is not funny, and indeed I just today had three letters from constituents of mine complaining about these claw-back provisions. I see the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader (Mr. Cooper) is finding this amusing. I do not find the harsh treatment of seniors by the Budget a laughing matter. I think the Government should be ashamed of itself for the tax changes that it has proposed in this respect.

I had three letters today from constituents who are seniors and who had contributed through Old Age Security—I wish there were not so many interruptions, Mr. Speaker. It is disconcerting to continue with a sensible speech when Hon. Members opposite continually heckle. I see that the Hon. Member for Calgary Northeast (Mr. Kindy) has disappeared and I know he agrees with everything I am saying.

I had three letters today from constituents in Kingston complaining about the fact that they have contributed money for years through the Old Age Security tax to the old age system. Now they are being deprived of the income that they would have expected to get but for the claw-back provisions contained in the Budget. They maintain it is unfair. I maintain it is unfair and Hon.