

Income Tax Act

committee. The first was to ensure that there was an actual implementation date. We have seen legislation pass through the House and the Senate and have waited years to have it proclaimed. Therefore I was very pleased to see the Government put forward a motion which included the implementation date of October 31, 1988 or sooner.

The other amendment accepted in committee ensured that certain chemicals which come under other Acts would be exempt from the legislation and that there would be legislative review of those exemptions in two and a half years. It was an important amendment to the piece of legislation.

I was quite happy with the co-operative approach of the Government and the fact that it accepted those amendments. As a result, the House is producing a better piece of legislation and we certainly support its passage at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Madam Speaker, Bill C-70 is certainly a very useful Bill, not just for the worker and for protecting the individual but also for industry. The Bill was tabled here in the House by the Minister and I think he is to be commended, because it is a very comprehensive piece of legislation, some forty pages long, its provisions cover just about every product, and the Government is certainly to be commended for tabling this Bill and I think it should be passed as soon as possible.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.

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[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There have been discussions among the Parties and I believe Your Honour would find unanimous consent to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs rather than to a legislative committee.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Hon. Tom Hockin (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-64, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act, a related Act, the Canada Pension Plan and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, be read the second time and, by unanimous consent, referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

He said: Madam Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak today on second reading of Bill C-64 which will

implement a number of changes to the Income Tax Act. The Bill has a number of merits which I am sure will be evident to Hon. Members of the House.

Bill C-64 will implement measures that will bring about a better management of government operations and public resources. One of these is the new requirement, effective January 1, 1988, for employers to remit to the Government twice monthly the deductions they make for their employees on account of personal income taxes and contributions to the unemployment insurance fund and the Canada Pension Plan. These deductions are now remitted monthly.

It is important that these measures be legislated as soon as possible in order to give corporations enough lead time to make the necessary administrative changes.

Bill C-64 contains the measures necessary to implement the income tax changes in the February 1987 Budget along with a number of tax changes. To avoid confusing these income tax amendments with those which are part of the tax reform initiative, it would be desirable for the Bill to be passed through the House as soon as possible. Passage of this important Bill before the summer recess would allow Hon. Members to devote more of their time and efforts to an examination of the tax reform measures during the summer and fall.

[Translation]

The Bill also contains the amendments to the Income Tax Act tabled in January by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) for the purpose of establishing international banking centres in Montreal and Vancouver. The Minister clearly indicated at the time that the purpose of this very selective incentive measure was to patriate to Canada certain banking activities being conducted abroad. It will not adversely affect other banking operations currently taking place in Canada. In fact, I believe this initiative will complement the measures we have taken to increase the competitiveness of the Canadian financial sector.

[English]

As I mentioned earlier, this Bill is an important part of the Government's ongoing agenda for economic renewal. It will implement a number of important changes and represents a wide-ranging process of consultation with interested individuals, organizations, and other Governments.

This is why I trust that Bill C-64 will receive the full and swift support of Members of the House.

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, let me first say that I am relieved the Government has agreed that the Bill will be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs rather than to a legislative committee.

Bill C-64 contains a number of very complex measures. It is based upon a Ways and Means motion which, with the technical notes alone, came up to about 15 pages. The Bill itself contains a couple of hundred pages.