

The Budget—Mr. Lewis

I know that in a moment or two the house will go to another item of business. Therefore, I want to place before the house an amendment to the amendment. I will make a few concluding remarks in my presentation tomorrow when the budget debate resumes. For the reasons I have already indicated I want to move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles):

That the amendment be amended by changing the period at the end thereof to a comma, and by adding immediately thereafter the following words:

"and that the government has placed the burden of these tax increases on the ordinary citizen of Canada, with favoured treatment for those in the top income brackets, instead of introducing a just and equitable system of taxation and obtaining further revenues by the cancellation of the special concessions to mining, oil and insurance companies.

I want to apologize to members of the house who would like to have this amendment in the French language. There simply was not time to have the French version prepared but we will make sure that it is available as soon as possible for the resumption of the debate tomorrow.

May I call it five o'clock.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege let me say that we do not have a copy of the subamendment in French. Yesterday the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) said that this was out of order and that we should not accept this practice in the House of Commons. The subamendment amounts to only a few lines, yet they could not get it translated.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lewis: On the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, since the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Chrétien) was so unkind as to refer to this matter, may I remind him that it was impossible for us to draft a subamendment until we had the amendment of the official opposition in our hands. It takes time to draft a subamendment and it can be drafted in one or other language with the consequence that it is not available in one language.

An hon. Member: You are supposed to be bilingual; you speak French.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. While it does take time to draft a subamendment,

[Mr. Lewis.]

and this can only be done after the amendment is available it also takes time for the Speaker to read the amendment and decide what should be done. Perhaps the hon. member for York South will permit me to hold this amendment until tomorrow, for a ruling in the meantime perhaps he can obtain a French version.

Mr. Lewis: Of course, Mr. Speaker, I still have some time at my disposal and I will be pleased to introduce the subamendment again tomorrow.

• (5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am not saying to the hon. member that he should reintroduce it. Perhaps he could refer to it again when he completes his speech tomorrow. In the meantime the French version can be prepared and the Speaker will have an opportunity to look at it.

It being five o'clock, the house will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**VOTING AGE—REFERENCE OF MOTIONS AND BILLS TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Jim McNulty (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, may I have the unanimous consent of the house to move a motion in respect of two notices of motions and five bills standing on the order paper to be referred to committee?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the hon. member have the leave of the house to present his motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, could I ask whether it will be done in both languages?

An hon. Member: Ask from your seat.

Mr. McNulty: By unanimous consent, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Chambly-Rouville (Mr. Pilon):

That the notice of motion reading as follows:

"That, in the opinion of this house, the government should give consideration to amending the Canada Elections Act to provide for the age of voters under the Canada Elections Act to be 13 years in lieu of 21 as at present", standing in the name of the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Schreyer) as notice of motion numbered 15 on today's order paper, (b) and notice of motion reading as follows: