

*Income Tax Act*

Canada today who are losing their homes through foreclosure, who are unable, because of high interest rates, to make their payments. What is the response when we in opposition say assistance is needed for people so that they can build homes, so that there can be added incentives for the construction industry and so that we can create jobs and a climate which will allow this country to grow? We get no co-operation from hon. members opposite. They do not feel these measures are necessary.

As late as last night in television releases it was noted that all the programs introduced on behalf of the construction industry of Canada have down sides. That came from a minister in the present government. The down sides of introduced programs were referred to, and I say that we want some up sides. We want some turnarounds in our economy. We will get turnarounds only if we encourage the construction industry, which is the greatest producer of jobs in the labour force I can think of which we can mobilize and put into action today. We could offer interest savings to home owners to encourage them to buy homes. In doing so we could then add an incentive to the construction industry which is very badly needed today.

What did Liberal members opposite do with respect to a property tax deduction? Do I hear any cries from the New Democratic Party because we no longer have that in our income tax program? We had to rely on the Conservative government of Ontario to offer relief to the people who find it most difficult to pay their property taxes. The provincial Conservative government of Ontario introduced legislation which provided property tax relief for home owners in Ontario in lower income groups, senior citizens and people on fixed incomes, the people most seriously affected, because hon. members opposite have lost their credibility and have no responsibility when it comes to energy tax credits, mortgage interest deductions, property tax deductions, and so forth.

What is happening? This government will take away from the provinces of Canada, through tax measures and energy policies, their revenue-producing resource base. Through expropriation and through legislation this government will acquire control of major corporations in Canada. When hon. members opposite seize that control through energy tax measures, they take away from the provinces of Canada the royalties they have always received and have grown to expect. They remove royalties from the provinces of Canada, because once the federal government takes an interest in those corporations, that opportunity and that revenue are taken from the provinces of Canada.

I warn the people of Ontario not to be taken in by the idea that always to acquire, to seize public ownership, to take state control of the free enterprise system is best for the people of Canada because, in view of what this government has done in the west with its present policies, I say, watch out, Ontario. Watch out for Inco. Watch out that this government down the road a piece does not feel it can set the world market price for nickel. How would the people of Ontario like it if the Liberal Government of Canada were to decide to set the price of nickel

at 50 per cent of the world price? What would we in Ontario say? We would say exactly what we are saying now.

The main object of this government in the energy field should be to seek self-sufficiency. Because of tax measures, budgets, and income tax legislation, we are the poorest example of moving toward self-sufficiency in the energy field. Non-renewable resources will be gone, with them will go revenue, and when it is gone it cannot be reclaimed. We will have to go to the world price somewhere down the road. If we do not, we will have to continue to subsidize.

Let us look at the promises made by this government in the last election campaign. I could find only five made by the Prime Minister of Canada, and all five have been broken. This government has not lived up to one of them. First, the Liberals would "manage more rigorously the nation's finances in order to make more effective the use of the taxpayer's money". The Prime Minister made that pledge just before the people went to the polls and were conned into voting for him. He said, and I quote, "We will hold the line on government expenditure growth under the rate of gross national product". That is the promise; what is the performance? For the coming fiscal year the MacEachen budget calls for an increase of 12.8 per cent in total federal spending. It forecasts an increase of 11.1 per cent in the gross national product, including inflation, so government spending is not being held in line.

Second, the Prime Minister promised "to achieve energy security at a fair price for all Canadians". He ridiculed the Tories for having failed to make a deal with the producing provinces, and he said, "We will negotiate an increase of less than 14 cents" in the price of a gallon of gasoline. A year later negotiations with the producing provinces are completely stalled, and energy security is a fading dream. When I filled up to come to Ottawa from Peterborough this week, I found that there has been an increase in one year of 50 cents a gallon.

Third, the Prime Minister promised a "development and industrial strategy which will provide jobs, spur growth and increase Canadian ownership and control". The Prime Minister said, "This party will not simply stand by and let the recession come". The then leader of the opposition and now Prime Minister said, "We will fight it and overcome it". He said that every economic tool at the disposal of a Liberal government would be used to save Canadian jobs and to maintain Canadian growth. In the year since that speech the Trudeau government has made no effort to use any economic tool to stave off the recession. In fact it did not even bring in a budget until it had been in office for seven months.

As for the promised industrial strategy, it is still to be produced, and Statistics Canada has just reported that more than 30,000 more Canadians are out of work now than a year ago.

The fourth promise of the Prime Minister in the last election campaign was that he would lead "a national government that uses its strength to realize the aspirations and economic potential of each of our provinces". It would be "a national government that builds up rather than tears down" and would make