

Income Tax Act

message to the federal government and to the people. In this handout, in large lettering it says:

Mr. Lalonde Your Energy Policy Will Harm Canadians.

This has nothing to do with multinationals or oil barons.

This handout contains five paragraphs. The first one reads:

It will make Canadians more dependent on expensive, insecure foreign oil.

I have already pointed out the cost of that to the Canadian taxpayer. The amount is something like \$11.8 million a day.

The second paragraph reads:

It will cost Canadians more for gasoline and heating oil in the long run.

Of course, in the last election the Liberals promised the Canadian people cheap gas. This promise has not materialized. In parts of Canada, gas has gone up 40 cents to 42 cents per gallon and the cost is increasing on a regular basis. So much for Liberal promises, and so much for cheap gas.

The third paragraph reads:

It will delay essential frontier exploration, oil sands plants and heavy oil development.

The trucks, rigs, equipment and companies which are leaving Canada do not go back and forth every other week. It does not matter whether things improve here in a few weeks, they do not come back. They go down for months and years. We will never see many of them again.

The fourth paragraph reads:

It will cost thousands of jobs that could be created by the oil industry across Canada.

We have one million unemployed and the government is introducing policies like this which is driving investment, industry, trucking companies and everything out of the country. The Liberals' alternative to all of this is the short-term Canada Works program, including Flip and Flop and all the rest. There is no way those programs will make up for this devastating policy of driving business and money out of the country.

The last paragraph reads:

Canada must achieve oil self-sufficiency.

When we were the government, that was our aim. We had a program to make ourselves self-sufficient. We did not introduce a program to drive industry and business out of the country and make ghost towns out of places such as Cold Lake, etc.

The last paragraph continues:

We are the companies your program was supposed to help—the independent Canadian companies. It doesn't help us—it has stopped us in our tracks.

These stubborn Liberals are just going to leave them stopped in their tracks because they do not care.

The last sentence reads:

We urge you to reconsider this program for the good of all Canadians.

Let us hope and pray the Liberals will reconsider.

An hon. Member: They do not care.

Mr. McKenzie: Let us hope the stubborn and politically motivated Liberals will reconsider.

Mr. Paproski: All Collette can do is laugh.

Mr. McKenzie: That is fitting.

There are other effects on the consumer regarding home heating in this bill. By 1983 Canadians using natural gas to heat their homes will be paying almost \$70 per year as an excise tax to their government. This is a Liberal tax. By 1983, oil heating will cost between \$400 and \$512 more a year. Up to \$350 of this amount will be as a result of new Liberal taxes. There is absolutely nothing contained in the budget or this bill to protect the low-income earner. We introduced a tax credit plan for low and middle-income people so as to assist them with high energy costs. But there is absolutely no provision to assist the poor, the low-income and the middle-income people with the devastating effects of the Liberal policy.

Regarding transportation, by the end of 1983 gasoline prices will have risen by 15.2 cents per litre. That is 70 cents per gallon. So much for cheap gas. The average driver will pay \$400 more per year, \$272 of which is in new federal government taxes. The government has not missed an angle in finding ways of taxing Canadians.

The hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) will be going into another aspect later on this week concerning a new sales tax which the government has brought in affecting small businesses, in that it will not be economic for small business to hire the handicapped or have different handicapped workshops do work for industry. It will be cheaper to have the work done out of the country. The government then introduces another program to assist the handicapped. Last week we heard about a program to assist industry to hire handicapped. There are programs to assist them and there are other programs which do not make it advantageous to hire the handicapped. The government simply does not know what it is doing.

As I have pointed out, there is no compensation at all for low-income users of energy. I want to read from another recent article. This came from the Canadian Council on Social Development. This group studied the budget and the energy package in detail. They have pointed out the devastating impact they are having on low-income Canadians. There is absolutely no assistance in any way to assist these people with their higher energy costs. A spokesman for the Canadian Council on Social Development pointed out:

—that the new tax increases announced in the budget will add \$14.3 billion to the federal treasury over the next three years, but only \$345 million per year in new funds have been devoted to increasing the incomes of Canada's poorest pensioners.

We will be in for some rough times in Canada with the budget, the National Energy Program, and Bill C-54.

● (1610)

The present Minister of Finance probably got the shock of his life when he took over this portfolio and found the mess we are in in this country. I do not think he fully realized the