

Income Tax Act

taxpayers of Canada shall forever be grateful to certain Members of Parliament for contributing so much useful information to *Hansard* and the permanent record.

• (4:40 p.m.)

At times, however, *Hansard* readers will assume that they have opened the pages not to a debate on taxation but to one on foreign affairs. The hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) talked on October 22 about shortages of meat, fruit and fresh vegetables in the Soviet Union. The hon. member for Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) was waxing eloquent about a room in a grocery store in Minsk when he was called to order on October 13. On October 20, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) was predicting difficulties in our relations with the United States as a result of something Premier Kosygin was reported to have said.

Some of the debate was even further out than that. The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin) on October 18, delivered some remarks on witch doctors and about going to the bathroom.

Mr. Stanfield: It is always relevant.

Mr. Baldwin: That is what they use the bill for in Peace River.

Mr. Thompson: Don't talk about leaks over there.

Mr. Trudeau: I am not sure it was so much a political movement—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: I rather suspect the hon. member wanted to deduct his expenses for such trips.

Mr. Baldwin: It was a Liberal movement.

Mr. Trudeau: The occult was also present in the speech of the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski) when, on November 15, he made references to the devil.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, we on this side are proud of this important tax-reform measure.

We have little doubt that the vast majority of the Canadian people support our efforts.

For the first time in Canada, a government has invited the population as a whole to participate with it in the formulation of a major policy. That exercise in democracy has drawn from the opposition the charge, on the one hand, of uncertainty and, on the other, of arrogance. We leave it to the people of Canada to say what they think of such contradictory charges.

Mr. Speaker, the government created this opportunity for public participation more than two years ago; the public has responded during those two years, and this legislation, we believe, reflects that response. The two parliamentary committees held lengthy hearings and received submissions from thousands of Canadian individuals and organizations. As well, nearly every province put forward submissions.

This bill takes into account many of the basic concerns voiced by them. It reflects many of the recommendations of the Senate committee and it includes virtually all the

[Mr. Trudeau.]

important recommendations of the Commons committee. Above all, the government went as far as was feasible to accommodate the views of the public.

Still the opposition wants more. More debate, more time. Mr. Speaker, I say that they have more than made clear their indecisiveness. The government and the vast majority of Canadians are ready for decision.

[*English*]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave). Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Témiscamingue, on a question of privilege.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Before the amendment was put to the vote this afternoon, I was about to rise when a government member came to see me and ask me to postpone my intervention until after the vote. I agreed also to allow the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to make his statement after the vote. But now I am being ignored, without warning, and the floor is being given to a member of the Progressive Conservative party.

I wonder whether that was what was agreed upon before the vote was taken.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Témiscamingue will surely understand my problem. Of course, I was not aware of the agreement reached by the hon. member and the representative of another party. In any event, I doubt that such an agreement can be binding on the Chair. As far as I am concerned at this point, I believe I should give the floor to the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave), and then, to the hon. member for Témiscamingue. I could hardly do otherwise.

[*English*]

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, first I wish to express my appreciation for the courtesy in allowing me to use a place where the electronic apparatus in this House is still working.

It would be a temptation to deal at great length with the almost-maiden speech of the right hon. gentleman who has preceded me, but because it was an almost-maiden speech, and because I have some important things to say which I intend to say while at the same time keeping the debate on as high a level as possible no matter what the provocation, I will not be deterred long by what the right hon. gentleman did say. But he deserves correction, and correction he must receive. When he said that the tax reform procedure would fall short of a decade, he obviously forgot that his own Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) was telling us on Friday that come next year, and early next year, we would be receiving amendments to the bill which we are now being asked to pass. Indeed, the Minister of Finance indicated this afternoon in answer to a question of mine that one of these would deal with deferred profit sharing plans. So, when the right hon. gentleman waxed lyrical about deferred profit sharing plans I was tempted to ask: which law is he referring to,