

Mr. Speaker, this subtlety of speech which becomes more and more reproachful (*réprobatrice*)—

Mr. Rondeau: Réprobateur.

Mr. Valade:—this interpretation which becomes more and more difficult for our people to accept now, all the more so since it comes from those who claim to speak the only truth, if the expression is not too strong—

Mr. Rondeau: It is strong.

Mr. Valade:—for my Créditiste friends.

Mr. Speaker, if we are discussing today a bill which affects all Canadian taxpayers and, as explained by the minister, which states that the government's intention is to extend for another year the 3 per cent surtax, it is because the government has enjoyed and still enjoys a majority which it has gained democratically and when it could rely on the support of the Ralliement créditiste. This is why we are still in the same situation and asking the government to consider the situation of the small wage earners and to defer its decision in the present economic situation, when unemployment has raised to levels unequalled in the past, when the economic situation becomes more and more difficult, and when companies find it difficult to "have both ends meet in their administration." After all, all those who have intelligent and technical knowledge of economics say to the government: Stop taxing, because you are in the process of strangling small industry, of strangling the low-salaried worker, of strangling the economic future, the future of Canadian citizens.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we are engaged today in another debate which does not differ at all from that of 1968, which is an exact replica of the 1968 legislation. If at that time some hon. members had shown by their unequivocal attitude that they would never had supported the federal government had it persisted then in its intention to extend the 3 per cent surtax, I am sure that the Canadian taxpayers, the Quebecers and the workers in general, would not now have to dig deeper into their pockets to pay for the exaggerated, extravagant expenditures of the present liberal administration.

Mr. Speaker, I shall spare the House some of the comments I could add to those I have made already. I could quote the many testimonies of people who write to me blaming the liberal government for its policy of economic pressure, not on those who can pay, but on the small wage earner. The Minister of Finance says that the policy advocated in the white paper will result in taxing the rich to give to the poor, but the present bill taxes the poor to make the government grow even richer than it is now.

There is only one thing for the government to do if it needs funds to pay for social legislation and for the deficit caused by the old people pensions: it can cut down on its extravagances and reduce the amounts spent uselessly in some departments.

The government has all the means at its disposal, all the powers needed to impose on the taxpayers all the taxes it deems necessary and valid. The Liberal govern-

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ment will have to remember that if it has all the powers once elected, it does not enjoy this power indefinitely. And if it does not consider the results of increasing taxes from day to day and thus aggravate the situation caused by this heavy burden of taxes accumulating from day to day, it will have to suffer the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, let us ask the members in good faith—as my hon. friend from Matane (Mr. DeBané), whom I want to congratulate publicly for the selfless, frank and loyal work he has done, for many months, to help the population of his constituency to go through very hard times—what they think about it. I want to congratulate the hon. member because he is the kind of public figure who makes a politician's life worth living and he is almost the only one of his kind. I believe that all the other members who represent the working class, the low-earners, must now realize that if they do not stop taxing the man who can no longer pay, one day, and that day may be soon, they will have to pay the price of their blind loyalty to a party, particularly those members who want to warp minds and act as gods, claiming to be the sole possessors of the truth and the sole defenders of the working class.

These irresponsible and unfounded attitudes and statements will only destroy public confidence in politicians and Parliament. I do not believe that this is the best way to serve the people. I therefore strongly urge the Minister of Finance to state, before we vote on Bill C-225, how much money the government has collected and is now collecting through this 3 per cent surtax and if these sums exceed the requirements of the government, let him promise to reduce taxes accordingly on low incomes.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, having heard the speech of the member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade), an insidious speech, with dishonest interpretations which reflect on our privileges as members of Parliament, I think it is my duty to set the facts in their true light. Last night again, the whip of the Conservative party asked one of my colleagues, the hon. member for Compton (Mr. Latulippe), who was the first Créditiste speaker on this tax bill, to shorten his speech to five minutes, ten minutes at the most, in the hope that this bill might pass unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, we want to set the facts straight and what the member for Sainte-Marie said is false and reflects on our privileges. The fact that I have just disclosed can easily be substantiated by the testimony of the member for Compton who is far more honest than the member for Sainte-Marie.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Mr. Valade: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Sainte-Marie.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of raising the question of privilege in respect of the nonsense we