

child. This particular tax measure does not apply equally to all poor families, though. Using the Senate subcommittee on poverty's standard as the benchmark, we should be offering a sales tax rebate to all families with incomes of below about \$23,000 per year.

[Translation]

more or less, depending on the circumstances.

However, it seems families with an income of more than \$16,000 are less entitled to this tax credit which now is only \$70 per adult and \$35 per child. This is ridiculous. If we accept the fact that sales tax is a regressive tax that hits the poorest of the poor, then why impose new sales taxes which, in the very words of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), are regressive taxes and kill jobs. He said so himself: "It is a job killer". This is not a Liberal quote.

So if we accept that principle, then at least when the Government introduces all kinds of taxes the way it is doing now, including a tax on kids' ice cream, a 10 per cent tax on all long-distance calls which will hit the poorest of the poor living in remote areas, in Northern Quebec and Northern Ontario and other parts of Canada outside our urban centres—all these taxes should at least be offset by a tax credit for those on low incomes. To say that \$70 is enough for a family with an annual income of \$16,000 is absolutely outrageous. I think that if the Government really wants to go ahead with this legislation and the sales taxes and excise taxes on all sort of things including alcohol, tobacco, all the taxes we have here, and even the tax on gas—the 18 cents a gallon introduced by the former Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) looks good now, because since this Government came to power, it has increased taxes by a total of 23 or 24 cents a gallon, and now they want to add another cent per litre as of April 1, "*La journée du poisson*". Is that correct, Mr. Speaker? In English we say April Fool's Day.

An Hon. Member: Le poisson d'avril!

Ms. Copps: For Canadians, "Le poisson d'avril" was that they would have to pay one cent more in addition to 23 or 24 cents per gallon they were paying since this Government came to power, a Government that promised Canadians it would not increase taxes.

It is clear this Government is not for the working man. This is a Government that does not want to give those who are less well off enough to help them raise their children. Now really, Mr. Speaker, \$35 per child per year in exchange for the thousands of dollars of sales tax the Government is bringing in now—this is ridiculous!

That is why we cannot support this Bill and why we must support the amendment which gives the Government a chance . . . It will give them another six months to reflect on what they want to do, and we hope that six months from now they won't be around any longer, because they will be beaten in the next election, which may be in October.

Excise Tax Act

So if we wait, if we support this motion for a six-month hoist, it would provide a flicker of hope for the poorest of the poor in this country. We will have a chance to get rid of these taxes which are inequitable, and this includes the way small businesses will be taxed, which will have an impact on the tax system, but will not reduce the deficit.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions and comments.

[English]

Since there are no more questions or comments, and before I recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy)—

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier)—Official languages—Saskatchewan Bill—Request that financial assistance be offered to province / Survival of minorities; the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap)—Immigration—Query whether Minister has consulted Canadian Bar and the Senate / Request for today delay on deportations; the Hon. Member for Trinity (Mrs. Nicholson)—Tax reform—Request that Government pay interest on income tax collected.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

EXCISE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke-Centre) that Bill C-117, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, and the amendment of Ms. McLaughlin (p. 14479).

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your use of French, and I hope your colleagues and compatriots in Alberta and Saskatchewan will in future do likewise.

[English]

I would like to speak to Bill C-117, second reading of which we have proposed be deferred by six months. That, of course, is