

Excise Tax Act

services. When we go to the movies we will pay sales tax. When we pick up our laundry we will pay more sales tax. When we go bowling we will pay sales tax. When we buy some foods we will pay tax. Although the Government says that some foods may be exempt, of course many foods will not be exempt. It is not clear. We will be paying a national sales tax for writing up a will.

Where will it end? It is not unfair that taxes go up. I think most people accept that as a reality. What is unfair is that other areas are not being taxed whatsoever.

Let us look at the list of taxes today. There will be a 10 per cent tax on telecommunication services such as telephone and telex. The Government is to put a 10 per cent tax on these services. This means that all parents who are telephoning their kids across Canada will be charged an extra 10 per cent on that particular service.

It is discriminatory in certain regions of the country. Those of us from western Canada are particularly sensitive to these kinds of charges because of the nature of our expansive territory and the fact that people live some distances from one another and most often have to telephone long distance. When I phone from some parts of my constituency to my office it requires long distance charges. Now those of us in western Canada will have to pay an extra 10 per cent, in addition to the long distance charges, whereas in central Canada with its denser population a lesser charge will be imposed on individuals. It is probably an unintentional tax against those of us living in the regions of the country.

There will also be an increase in the telecommunications programming services tax on cable television from 8 per cent to 10 per cent. Virtually every Canadian household now has cable television, with a few exceptions, and there will be an increased tax on that viewing.

There will also be an increase in the sales tax on such things as paint and wallpaper, from 8 per cent to 12 per cent. People who want to work hard, to upgrade their homes or to make them nicer places in which to live will have to pay increased taxes. That will be more costly as a result of nickel and dime taxation.

Also there will be an increase in the federal sales tax on beer, spirits, wine, tobacco, and so on. This seems to be a fair target area for provincial and federal Governments; they just keep adding taxes to these products.

There will also be an increase in air transportation tax of 4 per cent per ticket. I think it is inadvertent, but again it is discrimination against those of us living in the regions who, by definition, spend much more time flying from one small community to another. To get around parts of my constituency I must take an aircraft, whereas Members of Parliament from Toronto and Montreal can probably drive around their constituencies quite easily. Those of us who must fly will pay an additional tax of \$4 per ticket on our travel charges.

I do not think it is a plot against western Canada. I do not see a bogymen around every corner. However, inadvertently, those of us living in the regions will be paying more than ever.

Oh, shucks, I do not want to go on, Mr. Speaker; it is too depressing. I have page after page of increased taxes here. However, I think it must be said that there are many places in the country—and Kamloops is no exception—which are typical communities outside central Canada where the situation is difficult economically and unemployment rates are high. I am sure you are aware of such communities, Mr. Speaker. We are struggling to do the best we can, but one of our handicaps is that not enough business or economic activity is being generated in our communities. That is the case for a whole set of reasons, one being that the federal Government keeps grabbing money out of our pockets and taking it to Ottawa. We are getting really fed up with that.

● (1220)

Adding up all the tax increases the federal Government has imposed since this Government took office back in September of 1984, a typical family in a place like Kamloops is paying nearly \$1,400 more per year. Today we will impose another few dollars of tax on these people. The one tax increase that I did not mention earlier, the increase in gasoline taxes, will cost the average family an extra \$50 per year. The provincial Government has now imposed another set of taxes on gasoline and on a whole number of other things.

Let us just round the figure off and say that as a result of this federal Government, the average family in Kamloops pays an extra \$1,500 per year in federal taxes of one kind or another. That is \$1,500 per family that is not circulating in a city like Kamloops between the various businesses, providing employment and activities, enabling people to buy goods and services.

When every family has to reach into its pocket, pull out \$1,500 and send it down to Ottawa, that is \$1,500 that will not be used to buy a particular service or purchase particular goods in a city like Kamloops. That handicaps the business community. It makes it difficult to do business. It is difficult for the manufacturers, the wholesalers, the retailers and the shopkeepers. Therefore, it is one of the reasons unemployment levels are so high.

One of the things the federal Government could do to assist British Columbia would be to give us a fair deal in program expenditures. Whether these expenditures provide help to business, large or small, or help to local manufacturers, let us give them their fair share.

Second, why not stop raising taxes for once and start imposing a fair tax system on the large, profitable corporations which pay nothing year after year? This is not a condemnation of the corporations. I want to make that clear. I am not saying that General Motors, the banks, the trust companies or the insurance companies are doing something wrong. It is just that successive Liberal and Conservative Governments have