

people who have large incomes. The \$500,000 lifetime capital gains exemption is going to go preponderantly to those who are quite well off in our society. If we take the last available statistics, for instance, 1982, we find that in that year 63 per cent of the value of net taxable capital gains went to persons with incomes over \$50,000 per year. Those are the people who are going to gain the greatest benefits from the capital gains tax exemption. At the same time, corporate taxes are falling dramatically. I would like to refer to the speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) to the Canadian Tax Foundation in November of 1984. He said recent figures indicate that the effect of tax incentives has been to reduce the average federal corporate income tax rate from 36 per cent cut to 15 per cent. That is a great deal more than a 50 per cent cut in the form of some exceedingly dubious corporate tax expenditures such as accelerated depreciation which costs us \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year, as well as write-offs for corporate takeovers which are anything but productive. Here we have dramatically demonstrated a Bill which will unfairly remove from the pockets of ordinary taxpayers a total of \$3.5 billion. At the same time this country has, over the past 10 years, put an extra \$21 billion into the pockets of corporations.

● (1750)

If it had worked, Mr. Speaker, if as a result of all these corporate tax breaks we had a massive upswing in our economic fortunes, then as a good pragmatist I might have to sit back and say that despite what I expected success has arrived. However, every study done of this crazy, skewed-up, mixed-up, messed-up approach to tax equity shows that we did not get the extra jobs promised. We did not even get the extra investment. Yet we persist in giving more benefits and more giveaways at the same time we hit the poor consumer over the head with a total of \$3.5 billion in taxes in this Bill.

That is that macro-cost of this approach, but there is a micro-cost, too. For example, in my constituency, the liquor industry, companies such as Hiram Walker and Seagram, used to employ almost 2,000 people. The massive increase in excise taxes on liquor products has devastated that industry. At this stage those companies are down to a total employment of perhaps 600 people. Again and again and again they have made a serious economic case to Government that an unfair burden is being placed on them. The workers in that industry are being asked to carry an unfair share of the load. They have explained the direct impact on the tourist industry which arises out of these higher taxes but the only consequence is another \$447 million loaded on their backs by this legislation. We do not have to talk only about large industrial companies like Hiram Walker, let us talk about the small construction companies, most of which are the backbone of the Conservative Party in my constituency, a backbone which is weakening. There are companies like Scofan, Bondy Trucking and McIntosh Paving. They came to me this summer and said: "Look, we don't object to the tax being put on us for the future. All we say is that it is crazy to put that tax into effect as of July 1 when we have contracts set up throughout the summer". Nine out of 10 of the contracts in Essex County had no escalation clause to

Criminal Code

take into account the possibility that the Government might suddenly and arbitrarily throw a new tax on asphalt and concrete paving. These people are reasonable. They went to their Government, they wrote letters. Their construction association approached the Minister of Finance. He wrote back and said that he chose to delay the imposition of the tax until July 1 in order to provide time for manufacturers to accommodate the levy. Of course, he provided much more flexibility for other manufacturers. Gasoline did not go up until September 11, 1985. However, he would not take into account the very specific way in which these people were going to be badly damaged, not because the tax was going into effect, but because of the arbitrary nature of its timing. This Government is not only making serious economic mistakes at the macro level by taking money out of the pockets of consumers, it is not only being unfair in the way it levies taxes, but it is shooting itself and its supporters in the foot by not permitting a little flexibility with respect to when these taxes are effective.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being six o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING ABORTION PROVISIONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby) moved that Bill C-238, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (abortion), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to speak in support of Bill C-238, an Act to amend the Criminal Code to repeal those provisions dealing with abortion. I realize that this subject has given rise to a great deal of controversy and provoked strong feelings and emotions among Canadians. However, I believe it is most important that we as parliamentarians not shirk our responsibility to speak out on fundamental questions affecting the rights of all Canadians. As a member of the special parliamentary subcommittee on equality rights I had the honour to travel across this country and hear from Canadians from coast to coast representing literally millions as they outlined their concerns about issues of equality, whether they be representatives of women, the disabled, visible minorities or other minorities. One of the very serious illustrations of inequality in Canada today was brought to our attention as being the unequal provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion. The effect of my Private Members' Bill would be to repeal the sections of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion and allow a woman to make this very important decision herself in consultation with her doctor. This is the