

The Budget—Mr. Rodriguez

country, he does not get anything clawed back. Therefore, E. P. Taylor does not get his old age pension clawed back. K. C. Irving does not get his old age pension clawed back. He is in the Bahamas. All those well-heeled Tories live somewhere else most of the year.

The Minister of Finance sees himself as the Robin Hood from Rockcliffe. He is clawing back \$320 million. If he really wanted to share the burden, and this is a real suggestion for the Tories, he could have created another tax margin of 34 per cent. The maximum tax margin used to be 17 per cent and that was squashed into 5 per cent or 3 per cent. The highest is now 29 per cent. There is a margin at 29 per cent and another one could be created at 34 per cent for the real biggies. The Government could have raised \$2 billion, and we would not have to tinker around with the principle of universality. We would not have to run after will-o'-the-wisps like E. P. Taylor, K. C. Irving, and a whole bunch of others. A further \$2 billion could be raised. This would hit at those in the \$500,000 club. Who is in that club?

The \$500,000 club was referred to earlier by one of our speakers. There is A. J. de Grandpré, Chairman of BCE Inc. This is the man who was set up to tell us how we can phase in the Free Trade Agreement by trampolining people all over the country. He is making \$852,900. Vic Rice gets \$1,034,000,499. This is the man who closed down Massey-Ferguson in Brantford. There were 4,000 jobs lost, but he looks after himself pretty well. Here is a Liberal who did not do too badly at all. There had to be a Liberal in this pile. He was also a candidate. Frank Stronach ran against old Sinc Stevens. Sinc was a candidate, and then he wasn't.

He was a candidate for a whole year and on the eve of the election the Prime Minister found his integrity and said: "No, you are not a candidate any more", and poor old Sinc was out on the street. Sinc was sunk. Sinc was sitting with his wife playing *Let's Make A Deal*. Anyway, Frankie baby is making \$1,354,000. There is this guy Culver. He was the one at this little private, secret meeting at Winston's. He headed up the campaign to get the Tories re-elected. He is the President of Alcan Aluminium. He is making \$1,454,259. He is a fellow who calls himself my friend, and I accept that. There is also Bill James, Chairman and President of Falconbridge.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): He is a friend of yours?

Mr. Rodriguez: That is right. He made a contribution to my campaign, and don't forget it. With friends like these! His salary jumped 20 per cent to \$1,689,533. That is real money. That is not an accounting—what did he call the deferred taxes—procedure.

How does the Government say it is going to tackle getting some money? It is going to put in surtaxes on corporations. If a corporation does not pay any taxes, it does not pay any surtax. There are 89,000 wealthy corporations in this country that did not pay taxes last year. Therefore they will not pay any surtax. There are a couple of thousand very wealthy Canadians who did not pay anything and who will continue not to pay anything.

People with \$100,000 in taxable income paid an average federal-provincial tax rate of 53.88 per cent in 1987. With tax reform it dropped to 46.4 per cent in 1988. This Budget will inch it back up to 48 per cent in 1990. This is still a full 5 per cent lower than in 1987, but people with incomes in the \$27,000 range will end up paying 5 per cent more than when tax reform started. That is the logic of the Robin Hood of Rockcliffe.

• (1750)

I come back to the original question with which I began: On whose side is the Government? Who pulls the chain of the Government? The answer is very clear. Those who are wealthy, those who are economically powerful determine the decisions that are made by the Government. So it has been with Liberals, so it is with the Tories.

[Translation]

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his dynamic contribution to this debate. I also want to remind him, in case he has read the Budget papers, of some information concerning the last part of his speech, when he talked about the surtax schedule based, for example, on income. I just want to say that the increased surtax amounts to \$45 a year for taxpayers earning \$20,000; \$725 a year for people earning \$100,000; and \$2,175 a year for those earning \$200,000. If that is not a progressive increase, I don't know what is. I think the Budget aims at protecting low-income individuals, and it would be dishonest for the Hon. Member not to recognize that fact. We have significantly increased the tax credits, and have asked the well-to-do to help us fight our debt and our deficit problem. So, I don't know where the Hon. Member got his information, but from