

Income Tax Act

federal government should work very closely with the provinces in this connection. The Minister of Industry has suggested that consultations have already been held on this subject. This is a national problem, just as the total question of unemployment is a national problem, and both levels of government must be concerned about its solution.

Finally, we must not forget that although these areas of chronic unemployment are always areas of difficulty, the basic need in this country is the raising of the aggregate level of demand. The total level of employment must therefore be raised. Chronic areas of unemployment will also be better off, once there is a high level of employment and income generally in Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Perron: Mr. Speaker, while the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett) was making her comments, I asked if I could put a question to her. Since she told me to wait until she had finished her speech, I wonder whether I could put my question to her now?

Miss Jewett: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Perron: Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, the hon. member suggested that I had made a pre-election speech. I would ask her then if, in her opinion, we should not take the same stand before and after an election.

I would also like to ask her this other question: Is it not because of the sharp contrast between the monetary policy advocated by our hon. friends opposite prior to the April 8 general election and the complete turnabout they have made since that she feels our speeches rather sound like campaign speeches?

[Text]

Miss Jewett: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I just thought it sounded like a hustings speech rather than one based on reason.

Mr. D. R. Gundlock (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, the house has listened this afternoon and previously to a great deal of discussion about areas. We have listened to discussion about areas, local areas, provincial areas, national areas, international areas and even economic and political areas. I simply want to bring one matter to the attention of the house and I am almost at a loss as to the area of approach to this question. It is the area—I cannot get away from the word “area” because I have listened to it so long this afternoon—between the actual legislation and the application of the legislation as we know it back home in our constituencies, or as Mr. and Mrs. Jones know it on the street.

I should like to bring an example to the minister's attention. Although the situation may not apply only to the Income Tax Act I realize we are confined to that act and the amendments. I could take a great deal of time this afternoon in going through the amendments clause by clause, but I have no intention whatsoever of doing so. I hope the minister will pay some attention to the point I wish to put before him. I know that probably his first answer will be that the problem is an inherited one from the previous Conservative government, but if we are faced with that answer I will have to remind him that we have been confronted with it under many previous administrations. I am honestly and conscientiously bringing this to the attention of the minister in the hope of some kind of improvement. Members of the house have heard about the same problem not only concerning the bill before us but also with regard to other legislation throughout the years. Admittedly I have not been here very long, but from reading *Hansard* I know that the same problem has been raised.

It is all right to talk about international areas and other geographical areas. We talk about France and many other nations, but to my mind we have not approached the problem which I wish to bring to the attention of hon. members this afternoon as I have on previous occasions. The problem simply concerns the difference between the actual legislation and the application of the legislation, and to attempt to make myself clear may I give an example, though not a specific one. We discuss the legislation here time after time but when we go back to our constituencies we hear complaints and pleas. What do we find when we go back to our constituencies? There is nothing in the legislation concerning the problem I am bringing forward.

I realize this is not a grievance period. I am only attempting to present something to the minister for his consideration. I think we are quite fortunate in having an author as Minister of Finance. I think this is a good time to have such a minister for the consideration of a matter of this kind, because the gap between the legislation and the application thereof is so wide.

I should like to bring a short example to the minister's attention. I have had complaint after complaint. Indeed, I would think all Alberta members and other members from rural constituencies who have anything to do with the farming population have also had complaints. We heard something earlier about the purchasing of sale agreements. There are a lot of concessions in this regard in certain areas. I cannot get away from the word “area”. If I may put the example briefly, it