

S. O. 31

I say to hon. members opposite: if hon. members cannot defend this policy, cannot defend these tax increases, at least have the courage to vote against them and get them out of here so we do not have to put up with them and impose them on the people of Canada who elected us to help them.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in support of the amendments by the member for Calgary Northeast. Earlier I asked for 20 good men and women members on the Tory benches. Well, we have one, so we just have 19 to go, and hopefully with several more days of debate on this bill we might get the 19 others.

I know it may occur to people watching to ask themselves why an NDPer would second the amendments of the Conservative member who moves these amendments to his government's bill on taxation. One reason is because he could not find anyone on the government side to second his amendments. He could not find anyone who at least was prepared to stand up and publicly state before the viewers of this Parliament, before the country, that in fact enough is enough. There is not one of them with his courage who is prepared to stand and say to his leader and those around his leader that they are not going to be played for suckers, that they are not going to just be there as trained seals and flap their flippers every time they get a fish thrown at them.

Mr. Harvard: They are chickens.

Mr. Rodriguez: My hon. friend says they were chicken. I do not want to insult them that way yet because I am hoping that we can get 19 more to vote with us. I do not want to bad mouth them; I want to give them a good opportunity to be persuaded and to find courage to reach deep down within themselves to speak up. This is the time when this country needs clear unequivocal spokespersons on this question of taxation, and taxation, and taxation. They need that.

I mention the fact that this government was tax crazy. The facts speak for themselves. In the most recent budget, the 1989 budget, for example, there is an increase in the sales tax on construction materials and equipment for buildings, going from 8 per cent to 9 per cent beginning January 1, 1990.

Then there is an increase in the sales tax on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products from 18 per cent to 19 per cent beginning January 1, 1990 and there is an increase in the sales tax on telecommunications and

programming services from 10 per cent to 11 per cent beginning June 1, 1989.

There is an increase in the sales tax on all other goods to which it applies, from 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent, beginning June 1, 1989. There were several increases to the excise tax on tobacco products beginning April 28, 1989, and again on October 1, 1989, to a total of \$4 per carton of cigarettes. Then there was an increase in the excise tax on gasoline by 1 cent a litre beginning April 28, 1989, and again on January 1, 1990, and a further 1 cent per litre increase in leaded gasoline beginning April 28, 1989.

We then have the shifting of financing from general revenues to premiums for regional extended benefits in the unemployment insurance program. That will add another \$1.7 billion tax increase on payrolls. I see it is one o'clock, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to call it 1 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have six minutes remaining in his debate after three o'clock this day.

It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

The House took recess at 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

HASTINGS—PRINCE EDWARD REGIMENT

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to pay tribute to the Hastings—Prince Edward regiment who celebrated the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the origins of their regiment last weekend in my riding of Prince Edward—Hastings.

This regiment, known as the Hasty P's, mobilized in Picton in 1939 to enter the Second World War. This reunion also marks the fiftieth anniversary of this mobilization.

The Hasty P's were the most decorated Canadian regiment in the Second World War, receiving 31 battle honours, the highest being for the invasion of Italy under Lord Tweedsmuir of England. It is with great pride that I