

*Income Tax Law Amendment Act, 1971*

said, the bill before us has a uniform 7 per cent reduction in income tax for corporations right across the board, regardless of the type of company involved. These figures show that in the last ten years retail merchants paid taxes on 90 per cent of profits; wholesale companies paid taxes on 87 per cent of profits; the construction industry paid taxes on 77 per cent of profits; manufacturers paid taxes on 65 per cent of profits. Then, we get down to the mining companies, and we see that they paid on only 13 per cent of profits. Oil and gas companies have paid taxes on 5.7 per cent of the profits they have made in Canada in the last ten years.

And what do we have before us at present? We have a bill that will reduce corporate income tax by 7 per cent across the board, regardless of whether the company is an oil company, a mining company, or a retail company. I suggest that unplanned, ad hoc policies like these will, in the long run, work against the good of the Canadian economy and against increases in employment. They are not good for Canadians in general. Yet this is the type of planning that has occurred in this country ever since this government took office in 1968. It went on long before that. We need a tax system that is fair and equitable, so that the person who makes \$10,000 from stocks and bonds is taxed on the same basis as the man who makes his living by working in a factory. We need a progressive tax system, so that the man making \$100,000 pays a proportionately greater amount of his income in tax than the man who makes between \$4,000 and \$5,000. We will not solve many problems such as unemployment, poverty and those connected with regional development that we talk so much about unless we introduce a more equitable tax system in Canada.

• (5:50 p.m.)

This bill is not taking us in that direction. It is unfair, regressive, and will not stimulate the economy and provide jobs, which is what the minister may want. It is nothing but a handout to the wealthier in Canada; it is nothing but a handout to mining corporations, oil and gas corporations and other corporations which do not need handouts. Many of these corporations do not provide many jobs. For that reason, I appeal to members of the House to think about this seriously. I appeal to members of the Conservative party not to jump into bed with the government again, but to stand up for the ordinary person of this country, for the average working man, and to speak out against this bill which is regressive and inequitable.

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that by now it has become evident to the House that we, over in this corner, are more concerned about the principle of the bill than about the mechanics or the dollars and cents and percentages involved in the tax bill.

**An hon. Member:** Careful now.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** We are concerned because this bill involves our whole approach to a more just and fair society. We intend to make this point as we go along. This bill cannot be considered apart from other bills passed by this government. This tax bill must be considered in conjunction with the government's approach to society. That

is how we look at it; but that is not the view of the government.

I was quite impressed with certain passages appearing in a transcript of an interview that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) granted to James Reston of the *New York Times* on December 21 this year. I want to read a passage from this transcript. The entire transcript is exceedingly revealing of the philosophy that is behind the Prime Minister's thinking and, by extension, behind the thinking of the entire government. I do not think there is any secret about whose philosophy is all pervasive in the government ranks. The Prime Minister said:

People will look for the security which this system cannot give and they will try to find it in less free avenues in politics.

So that's my underlying assumption when I look at the world, when I look at the problems which exist elsewhere, and I think in a sense that can explain a lot of the troubles we're having, not only in the sub-continent or Northern Ireland or in the black ghettos or the conflicts in Canada. And from that follows also, I think, the only way of avoiding that increasing gap between the desire, the expectation, and the fulfillment. It's by repeating the truth to the people and getting them to participate in the decision—not in order that it be better, but in order that they realize for themselves that their expectations cannot be fulfilled and that the problem is more difficult of solution than the dreams would reveal. Now, this may not be clear to you.

Unfortunately, it is abundantly clear to many of us in this House, and the Prime Minister's attitude has been revealed to us over a long series of months and through legislation. The Prime Minister is saying to the people: You cannot aspire to a better kind of life than you are now living, and the job of Members of Parliament is to go out among the people and tell them that they cannot have it.

**An hon. Member:** Nonsense.

**An hon. Member:** Give it to them, Grace.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Listen, I do not mind heckling from the other side, but I object to heckling from my own side. It's too noisy.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mrs. MacInnis:** We have better hecklers over here. What did the Prime Minister say? Hon. members can read text for themselves, if they wish. He says that the trouble today is that people believe that they can have a better life. Well, they cannot have a better life and it is up to parliamentarians to go out among them and tell them they cannot have a better life. Surely, hon. members realize that this process is going on now. May I quote one more little passage. The Prime Minister said:

You know, in days where the British parliamentary system invented the system of paying the leader of the opposition and calling him Her Majesty's loyal opposition, it was because there wasn't enough press and television and union groups and university groups and so on. But now in a sense everybody is making it his job and it is I'm afraid pushing that society towards a breakdown.

In other words, the opposition is merely a vestigial remnant of parliamentary democracy and should be stopped. Well, it is not going to be stopped.

**An hon. Member:** You said it; he did not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** May I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.