

recognize that the child tax credit will increase by \$140 during the next three years? Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that this \$140 increase represents more than the average rate of inflation? Did the two Opposition parties say so when they travelled throughout the province and the country? Did they have the courage to do so? Did they have the political will? And most important, did they have the strength to do their job as Members of Parliament by telling the Canadian people, by telling Canadian mothers, by telling our poorest families, that the child tax credit would be reimbursable for the most disadvantaged families? This represents \$35 the first year, \$35 the second year and \$70 the last year.

No, Mr. Speaker, we did not see this happen. We did not see it because, on the other side of the House, both New Democrats and Liberals have taken a rather demagogic attitude.

It is certainly shocking and even revolting, Mr. Speaker, when you sit across from them, to realize that, after 20 years in power, and we all know that the Liberals have been in power more often than not, the parties opposite, and especially one of them, were unable to develop a social policy which would be fair and equitable to every Canadian family, including the most disadvantaged.

For them, Mr. Speaker, the principle of equity is not complicated: Rich and poor should be treated the same. This is what the other side calls equity. They do not understand, or they refuse to understand for financial reasons which could be of benefit to them, that a family earning \$15,000 a year and one earning \$100,000 cannot be viewed in the same way.

They do not understand, Mr. Speaker, and if I may use my own situation as an illustration, that myself and my family now receive the same family allowances as the single mother who lives out in the countryside and who needs welfare benefits to pay the rent and feed her family. They do not understand that she should receive more. They do not understand that the actual thrust of our legislation should be in that direction. No, Mr. Speaker. To them, the principle of fairness is to have everyone on the same footing, whether rich or poor. You all get the same thing. And especially when I hear the Hon. Member for Richmond-Wolfe (Mr. Tardif) crying out in this House, even rising on occasion since he has been in Opposition, I am inclined to ask him one thing: Where was he when his own party was de-indexing? Where was he? In the House or away travelling around? Perhaps there were reasons for his travelling. Where was he, Mr. Speaker, when his own Government decided to change course with respect to family allowances? If he was in this House, I wonder why he did not rise to vote against that, since he is opposing it today. I am wondering. Maybe he was on a trip. But it does not matter.

Mr. Speaker, I am coming back to my subject for I had no intention of being distracted by the Hon. Member opposite. You know—No, I would rather not say it. Look, Mr. Speaker—

Income Tax Act, 1986

Mr. Rossi: Go ahead, say it.

Mr. Champagne: Oh no, I must not say it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in this Bill, in this motion, we have to look at the facts as they are. Hon. Members opposite, especially Liberal Members, have asked us on many occasions to set politics aside and speak in an honest, accurate way. Well, I am ready to do so. And for sure all my colleagues are willing to do so. But under one condition: That we tell the whole truth. We must show exactly what shape our social system is in. Exactly what shape the deficit is in. We must state exactly how we, as a Government, as Members of Parliament, as representatives of the people, are going to work at building a society in which our children, our most needy families, all Canadians can live with a measure of fairness. This is all we are asking for, Mr. Speaker, this is what we are working on. This is what we are aiming at. This is what we want to achieve. Unfortunately, every once in a while, and too often in my view, especially when I see the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier)—

Mr. Gauthier: What did he do now?

Mr. Champagne: —I will tell you if you sit down . . . good, I will say it . . . they are there striving to boycott legislation. There they are opposite, trying to stop the course of events.

You know, Mr. Speaker, they were there for 20 years, and now that they sit in Opposition all they can do is bring in amendments, amendments, and more amendments. As you know, Mr. Speaker, such is the ingenuity of the Liberal Party. For 20 years, they acted as if they were sitting in Parliament, as if they were passing legislation, as if they were working for the whole of the Canadian community, except that they forgot one thing, Mr. Speaker. They are accusing our Government of helping the rich. But if my memory serves me right, the richest in our society were not paying any income tax. It is under this Government, with our new regulations that they will be paying a guaranteed minimum income tax. These are the facts Mr. Speaker, these are the facts and we are addressing them. These are the facts, my dear Member for Richmond-Wolfe, which will ensure that less privileged families will get more, because the principle of fairness will never apply in the same way to the rich and the poor alike. The fact must be addressed that there are have-nots. And this is what we are doing as a Government. Certainly this is a tough responsibility. Certainly it is a responsibility that Opposition parties do not understand. Because, as you see plainly: a \$200 billion deficit, the most affluent who were not paying any income tax, multinationals and the big corporations which were getting handouts. This being said, I would like to remind the liberals who accused us regarding the Norbank and the other banks, that they did exactly the same thing in 1925. At that time, they reimbursed the depositors of the Home Bank. That is why I cannot accept, Mr. Speaker, their holier than thou attitude in front of the Canadian people, who had to put up with them for 20 years.