

Government Orders

tion of the taxation system will save us billions of dollars in compliance costs.

Does the member want to know what else it does, Mr. Speaker? It would also get the government out of the business of trying to micromanage the economy. It would reward initiative by leaving 75 to 80 per cent of every dollar earned in the pockets of the earner which is a better place than in the pockets of the government.

The Speaker: I would imagine the hon. member for Durham would like a counter commentary.

Mr. Shepherd: Mr. Speaker, I noticed the member reading from a piece of paper. I guess it is the hymn book of the Reform Party. I suggest that Reform members start going back and actually looking at the whole structure of taxation in Canada.

I could not believe my ears when he said it is a difficult tax, it is not simple. Then he turned around and made the statement that is so simple it is hard to get in here. I cannot quite understand his philosophy.

I am going to repeat one more key statistic. It comes from their favourite Fraser Institute. Sixty-three per cent of all income taxes in Canada are paid by the top 30 per cent of taxpayers.

It does not matter what the Reform Party members want to argue, they are not going to change that statistic. Realistically, when one starts saying that they are going to let the lower bottom people off, fine, I understand that.

There are some problems with that because you create a wall of taxation. It keeps poor people in debt. It keeps people down because they have no the way to make progress. As soon as they earn an extra dollar, they are hitting the 23 per cent tax rates. That is the philosophy of the Reform Party. Keep the poor people poor and while we are at it, let us shift the tax burden from the very wealthy, which that party represents, to middle income earners.

That is not going to fly. It is not going to fly out west and it is not going to fly down here either.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): I know the member for Durham was telling you through me.

Mr. David Chatters (Athabasca, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in the debate on Bill C-90 which specifically enables the government to increase the already high levels of taxation imposed on Canadians.

It never ceases to amaze me the disregard the government seems to have for the intelligence of Canadians. This bill is an outright betrayal of the commitment in the red book or the election platform of the Liberal Party. In addition to the betrayal, the Liberals promised not to increase taxes to Canadians. There is the dishonesty, the deceit and the rhetoric surrounding the cuts that have to come and inevitably will come whoever is the government some day if we are to reach a balanced budget.

We just heard the best example of this rhetoric that we hear all the time. The member for Durham rises to join the debate on Bill C-90, a bill to increase tax levels. In his speech he says there is nothing wrong with the tax system. All that is wrong is the rates are too high, the second highest in the OECD. Yet he is speaking in support of a bill that raises the level of taxes higher. That is rhetoric and double talk and we hear so much of it.

• (1550)

I would like to discuss a couple of other examples of the betrayal of red book promises. The Liberals said during the election campaign they could solve the problems of the country simply by economic stimulation and job creation. They did not need to cut programs. They did not need to raise taxes. They could solve the problems of the nation by job creation and economic stimulation.

It is now two years into the mandate. We have seen lots of cuts in programs and services but we have not seen problems solved through economic stimulation and job creation. We consistently remind the government day after day of the GST fraud which it has imposed on people. The Deputy Prime Minister told us she would resign within a year if the GST was not gone. She is still here. I saw her in the House today.

The government tells Canadians these things during an election campaign because it knows those topics are popular and that it will get votes. The Liberals tell Canadians what they want to hear. After they get elected they abandon their promises and hope Canadians will forget them before the next election.

Another bit of dishonesty is the story the government told the federal civil service that it would not be cut, that it would protect their jobs and honour the job security clauses in their contract. We are only two years into the government's mandate and it is talking about cutting 50,000 civil servants. What happened to the commitment to the civil service? It seems to have been abandoned.

There was the promise to maintain funding for social programs. The government said that it would never slash and burn like the Reform Party proposals would do. It would protect the precious social programs, the fabric of the social safety net system. Only two years into its mandate, the government has cut and cut far worse than what would have happened under what it called our slash and burn policies. The government's measures have been even more draconian than the Reform Party ever suggested they should be. If the \$7 billion cut to provincial transfers in support of social spending is not slash and burn I do not know what we could refer to it as.

I do not think Canadians are so naive or so easily deceived that they are prepared to forgive all this before the next election. The Reform Party is here to do everything it can to see the government is not forgiven. I am sure that come next election time it will have some real answering to do to the Canadian taxpayers.