

S. O. 21

TAX REFORM**BENEFITS OF REFORM**

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, critics of the tax reform proposals of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) have lost face once again, since as a result of this reform, the vast majority of wage earners and pensioners will pay less income tax. Eighty-five per cent of Canadians will pay less income tax as of July 1, and they will notice the positive impact of this reform when they realize they are getting a bigger paycheck that will put more money in their pockets.

From now on, there will be only three taxation levels instead of ten, which will make the system easier to understand. The tax rate will be set at 17 per cent for taxable incomes below \$27,500, at 26 per cent for incomes from \$27,500 to \$55,000, and at 29 per cent for incomes over \$55,000. Many tax concessions have been eliminated to make up for the drop in tax rates and to spread the tax burden more equitably. Income tax credits will take the place of a number of exemptions and deductions. Furthermore, the maximum credit per eligible child has been increased to \$559 for 1988.

Mr. Speaker, since the Conservative Government came to power, more and more people are working, we have managed to reduce the deficit, and 850,000 Canadians on low incomes will no longer pay income tax. We can say that with this Minister of Finance, consumers are getting their money's worth, Mr. Speaker!

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[English]

PRIVATIZATION**ELDORADO NUCLEAR—WORKERS' PENSIONS AND BENEFITS**

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, when the Government announced that it would be privatizing Eldorado Nuclear the Minister then in charge of privatization said in a press release that "existing pension and benefit plans will be adopted by the new company". In a statement and a letter sent to employees she repeated that promise. The company itself repeated that promise before a committee of the House of Commons.

Now in a proposal made public to the workers yesterday it becomes apparent for existing workers who continue to work for this firm that they will lose the protection of their present

pension plans. The protection will only exist for those people who have already retired.

I call upon the Government to reaffirm the promise it made to the workers. I call upon the company to reaffirm the promise it made to the workers.

I can tell the Government at this time that any work it wants done on that legislation this afternoon is in jeopardy if this broken promise is not rectified by the Government.

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AGRICULTURE**WESTERN DROUGHT—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Mr. Felix Holtmann (Selkirk—Interlake): Mr. Speaker, on June 30 the Government of Canada announced its drought relief program for livestock producers. The federal Government will spend \$76 million, and share assistance with all three prairie provinces.

This is just another example of the kind of leadership western Canadians have come to expect from the Conservative Government. This Government never has to wait for the squeaky calls of the lonely drugstore cowboy Grits in the West or, worse yet, a drought wish list by the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) and a Mr. Nobody from Saskatchewan called Romanov or Romanow or something.

No western Canadians can see any leadership qualities in the Hon. Member for Oshawa. Apparently the NDP drought policy will be issued during the next federal election campaign. By next spring, if they waited for New Democrats to take action or form policies, farmers in Saskatchewan will be spitting pure dust and dead cows will be pushing up daisies.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**MEMBER FOR CHARLEVOIX—PLEA ON BEHALF OF ANGLOPHONES**

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon the walls of this great House of Commons were vibrating. They were vibrating with the passionate call of my colleague and friend, the Hon. Member for Charlevoix (Mr. Hamelin), for support of Bill C-72. A great worker for Québec, he wanted that support and I quote:

—for the sake of Canada and for the sake of its people.