

We have heard today about the start of these taxes. In the First World War the federal income tax first came in as a temporary measure. Now look at the income taxes we have. Essentially the manufacturers' sales tax first came in as a temporary measure.

By the time it was done away with it was up to 13.5 per cent. It rose from 9 per cent to 13.5 per cent under this government since 1984, arguably from 8 per cent as the 1 per cent increase that had already been legislated was implemented under this government in 1984.

It is very clear that taxes increase as people see needs increasing. The examples have been given. We have just seen another major increase in unemployment insurance premiums for both employees and employers. Canada Pension Plan has been increased and will continue to increase as the government sees that more money is needed, as more and more people in Canada need it because they are 65 years of age.

• (1750)

Things have a way of growing like Topsy. They start small. Once the foot is in the door there is a tendency to push that door open and barge through with bigger and bigger taxes on those who can least afford it.

I believe the future of our country is in the area of small and medium-sized businesses. We should be giving these communities a hand up instead of pushing them down and giving them a kick further down the step to oblivion.

This is the government's next step to push down the small business community. The minister points out that it is a very small amount. However those small amounts have a tendency to grow, as they have in the past and as they will in the future. We have to look at that end of it.

Let us look at some of the other issues about this bill. I would like to talk about the retroactivity aspect of it, while we wait for this bill. We do not want to hold the bill up unnecessarily but we do want to protect the wage earners, we do want to protect the business community. There is no consideration in this bill for retroactivity. If the bill kicks in it kicks in at the time of proclamation. That is a concern that could be built into the bill. The provisions of this bill could be made retroactive to at least the date of the tabling of the original bill to give some protection through that period of time.

A positive section of this bill is that of reorganization.

Government Orders

It is positive because it is a section that has been long required. All of us in law and business have run into situations where our clients, our business community or people in our business community have been put down and out as a result of the banks simply pulling the carpet for one reason or another, whether it be a political reason or something else.

For example during the early 1980 recession a fairly well-to-do and active business person in one of my communities was doing some fairly high risk investing. He was investing well and creating employment within the community. The banks got a little edgy and pulled the carpet. Luckily this gentleman had built up sufficient assets over the years and was able to come up with purchasers of some of his assets so he was able to bail himself out. Had he not been more careful in the past, as a result of learning through experience dealing with banks, we in our communities in the Okanagan would have lost a valuable member of the business community who to this day is continuing to develop condominiums and build buildings. He sees where the need is and steps in because he has the background. They would have done him in at that time.

The provision for reorganization opens up the gate for a few other people to get into the system.

Over all the bill is one that we would like to support. However we see the necessity for some of those changes and see the necessity for that change in priority. We see the necessity to ensure that there is something to save people from the walkaways.

Also there is a necessity for some change in the revindication provisions for those who supply and, under the present system, could get left out in the cold.

I would like to be able to support this bill in whole. I implore the minister to consider making those changes so that I and my party can support him and the bankrupt-cy bill that is so dearly needed for the future.

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments. Given that the member is a lawyer working in that area, as I have done over the years, we can appreciate how it works.