

*Income Tax Act*

The federal government has adopted the principle that future fiscal arrangements should provide that each government should be accountable for its taxation and spending decisions, health insurance, welfare and education. If the tax burden increases in Canada, it will widen the gap between Canadian and United States companies and between the people of Canada and the people of the United States. Enterprising Canadians will be put to a more and more serious disadvantage.

In general the people of the United States can deduct mortgage interest and most forms of taxes. On the average the people of the United States receive approximately 30 per cent more in salaries. It does not take any great flight of imagination to realize what our young graduates from our universities look for. They are brilliant young men. When they look at our salaries and forms of taxation, although they may be very dedicated to their country they go south of the border.

I say to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) that the present and previous Liberal governments they have done their part to get this figure up to 36 per cent. This year \$840 million more was collected in taxes than in any year in the history of this country.

The minister stated that if the income tax had been increased by 2 per cent, instead of labelling it a social development tax, it would have been necessary to share it with the provinces. The minister did not have any compunction in enforcing universal medicare on the provinces. He let them look where they could for the money to finance their share, blackmailing them into accepting it. The government and the minister wanted total universal medicare instead of covering the 30 per cent of the people across Canada who really need it. Had such a scheme been introduced it would have cost only one-third of what medicare will now cost.

● (4:20 p.m.)

The very same government cuts back a few months later on the health resources fund, which is to provide for the education of the doctors who will be required to operate medicare. What a travesty of justice and honour! There is at present roughly a 20 per cent shortage of doctors in the general practitioner field. As you know, Mr. Speaker, general practitioners are the work horses of the medical profession. If the minister does not realize this, although as he comes from the city of Kingston and attended Queen's University I am sure he does know of the shortage, just let him go to some strange city, unknown and

[Mr. Rynard.]

unheralded, and try to get a doctor. I tell him now he will wind up in the emergency department of some hospital sitting on a bench waiting his turn.

The government set up not one but seven task forces to find out how medical manpower can be arranged, and how to stop escalating hospital and medical costs. Dr. Dalgleish, President of the Canadian Medical Association, wrote about this as follows in the C.M.A. Journal:

We disagree with Mr. Munro's statement that the shortage of doctors in Canada is a myth.

This is the cabinet minister who set up not one task force but seven to investigate the shortage.

The very real shortage of physicians and their most effective use are very complex problems—problems that the profession has been struggling with for some time. As a result, we were pleased when Mr. Munro recently scanned the whole country to collect the best brains available to serve on federal government task forces to study them. We are a little surprised that after doing so he appears to have prejudged the task forces' studies, identified the problems and provided solutions himself.

Mr. Munro must be poorly informed or has misinterpreted his sources of information. His reported comments on the doctor-population ratio and supply of Canadian trained physicians are a long way from actual fact.

It is the same general story when the government gets into anything. As the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Richardson) indicated, I believe, when the government is involved in something it cannot be run like a business, it has got to be a bit sloppy. How true those words were.

I accuse the government of acting with the wrong motives. It has broken faith with the Canadian people. It has withdrawn the grant of \$2,000 per bed for new hospital construction. This means that fewer hospital beds will be provided and fewer people will get into hospitals. In effect the government is taxing the people of Canada for hospital premiums and at the same time cutting down the number of hospital beds available. This is exactly the game that was played in England. There the services were cut. Is the minister going to do the same thing with medicare? There was little or no building of new hospitals in England. In fact the government has made a good start in that direction. It has cut the health resources fund, the very fund that was to provide the necessary hospital beds and the facilities required to train doctors.

The government will collect over \$450 million this year from the 2 per cent social