

Income Tax Act

heavy burden of waging war in southeast Asia.

So the minister has again tried to sell us a bill of goods which consists of contracting the Canadian economy in order to expand it; creating unemployment in order to achieve full employment; and permitting prices to rise in order to achieve price stability. During the whole process, our economy will continue to contract. Oddly enough, the minister is defeating his own purpose, which he states constantly, of achieving sufficient revenues for the Canadian government's operations, because I think it does not take a very profound economic insight to realize that a contracting economy provides less revenue for the government, and an expanding economy provides more revenue for the government. I do not imagine for a moment that the minister can possibly move from his position because, as I have told him many times, he is a doctrinaire. But I do suggest to him that if he had more concern for the welfare of the Canadian economy and less concern for aiding our United States friends in their self-inflicted difficulties, then we would have more confidence in him in Canada.

• (9:50 p.m.)

He speaks of having to get the confidence, not of the Canadian people but of the financial community. Now, the financial community are the very people who are producing the problems for the Canadian dollar. He knows that as well as anybody else, but for some reason or another he is trying to placate those interests. They are not awfully bright in the final analysis because the pressures they are bringing to bear on the government—and I am sure it is their pressures which force this government to their self-defeating policies—will eventually defeat business. In the long run, I would hope either this minister or some other minister will have the courage to free the Canadian economy from the chains that have been wrapped around it, and enable it to expand in proportion to our capacity which, to date, has not nearly been reached.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, may I say, first of all, that not only am I surprised but that I am stupefied at hearing the statement just made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp).

I think that we are taking part tonight in the beginning of the debate on the late Bill No. C-193. Frankly, we thought that rejection of this bill would have given a lesson to the government, and especially to the Minister of

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

Finance. But we are sure now that the lesson did not serve at all. Perhaps it served the minister, because I regard him as a very intelligent man. But what is an intelligent man worth if his hands are tied? That is how I see the minister tonight. He is a prisoner of great financial interests, and we can see that he is still under their control. He comes back before us to tax people and yet we pointed out to him recently other means to get these \$150 million.

One hundred and fifty million dollars is not very much. If he had wanted to make a small effort—something he does quite often for foreign countries and England—it would have been easy for him to find that amount without bothering the workers who—and we keep repeating it—cannot pay more now. The minister can rest assured that we will find that measure.

Since we have come here, we have fought against tax increases because we are convinced that taxation will not solve our problems.

I was more than surprised to hear the leader of the New Democratic party (Mr. Douglas) say that levying taxes was the main duty of the government. Mr. Chairman, I assure you that we will not follow the economists of the New Democratic party, nor those of the Liberals, as long as their fiscal policy is based on the principle of taxation.

We are here to protect Canadian citizens. We are here to administer, to make the Canadian economy serve the human beings, provide for the welfare of the Canadian citizen, and we will fight to the bitter end to have it reach its goal. We know, and we have figures to prove it, that Canada can reach that objective, that it has the necessary means to establish an economy where all its citizens will have a modicum of security and freedom.

At the present time, our governments are not free. We are increasingly aware of it, especially when we force it to show its hand, as we did by our vote on February 19 last. This vote gave us the opportunity to show the people how public affairs were administered. It has enabled us to show Canadians that the federal government could commit illegal acts, the main one being to arrogate for itself the right to collect taxes even before legislation was passed by parliament.

If we went back over our parliamentary history, we would find many other cases of