

consumption of Canadian products and also give thousands of individuals the chance to earn the minimum wage. There are, undoubtedly, many valid suggestions to be made. The minister might even be invited to consider the possibility of taking steps to increase the minimum wage, which is totally inadequate, because of today's cost of living.

I would also like to make a few comments on the statement we have just heard from the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Gleave). He accused the government of failing to introduce suggestions liable to help us and he severely blamed them about the measure they are proposing today.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I cannot help talking a little about these words, in light of the attitude of his party towards the government since last January. Today, they are ready to vote against the government about this measure and I think I am right when I say that it is after having ensured that the Progressive Conservative party would support it. However, if that party did not support it, in the light of the experience we have been living since January 4, I have the clear impression that the New Democratic Party would support the government.

Thus, I have serious doubts about the opinions of the hon. member who was speaking on behalf of his party because I am forced to recognize that on several occasions since January that party has openly and very deliberately betrayed principles it had been defending for a long time. What the hon. member said a few moments ago is nonsense, I think, and if the government occasionally makes such a big error, in short, if they should not administer the country—and I think that we have several occasions of condemning them—

[English]

The Chairman: Order, please. I ask the hon. member to give the Chair his attention for a moment. The subject matter we are dealing with does concern a proposed reduction in the taxes of corporations. However, it was agreed that we would deal with pages 1 and 2 of Bill C-192, "Deduction from corporate tax: manufacturing and processing profits". The hon. member should be dealing with that subject at this stage of the debate. When we go on to other parts of clause 1, the hon. member may find topics which concern his argument and he could advance them at that time. The committee did agree that we would deal with this clause in several sections.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

So, coming back to this bill, as I am invited to do, I think that the businessman in general has a very direct responsibility and I would, of course, urge the minister responsible to increase the meetings with those responsible businessmen and owners of industries. I think it would be a way of going out and getting advice, suggestions which are absolutely necessary if we want to correct, to improve the situation at this time. The businessman being more aware of his responsibility, particularly when it comes down to creating jobs, and considering that advantage which the government offers him, I think that it is a must for this government to do more to invite the businessman

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to take his responsibility and participate in finding the solution likely to improve the situation.

In any case, I am convinced that the businessman will not be able to continue to progress if the difficulties which we face now are allowed to continue. The bill before us which provides certain benefits will not have the anticipated effects if the responsible businessman does not understand the situation in which we live and does not answer the invitation of the department to improve the economy of the country.

Those are the few comments I wanted to make. I would also like to say that the government, while believing that this bill will produce beneficial effects, should not underestimate certain suggestions which have been made in this House and which I think would have created jobs.

In my opinion, we should have further considered granting the old age security pension as early as 60, which would have created thousands of jobs for younger people. This is a valid suggestion. I doubt it can produce the expected results. The implementation of those measures will never be exceedingly watched. I also think that other suggestions had the same objective, which is to give jobs to all Canadians. We should further consider those suggestions made by hon. members and wisely try to increase the number of jobs in this country.

Those are the few remarks I wanted to make. I hope that this measure will be reconsidered if it so deserves, in view of its lack of implementation as suggested by the department and desired by the government. However, I would be quite glad if this measure proved to be the incentive that would permit the government to reach its objective.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Chairman, we are being asked to give approval to the proposal of the Minister of Finance that corporation taxes be cut from the present 49 per cent to a new, lower rate of 40 per cent. I have opposed this proposal by the Minister of Finance for a number of reasons. I have done so principally because it seems to me that the real purpose of a system of taxation should be to bring the benefits of increased productivity and increased wealth to the people and, particularly, to improve the lot of those who are among the lowest income earners. The fact is that the taxation system which has been in existence for the last 25 years or more has done nothing to improve the lot of the people in the low income brackets. The system of taxation under both Liberal and Conservative governments has done precisely the opposite: it has permitted the rich to get richer, and the poor to get less of the total wealth of the country.

● (1530)

If there are hon. members here who doubt this statement and think it is merely part of my political philosophy, an aspect of my partisan nature which I do not wish to disavow, I would refer them to a speech made by the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, Dr. Raynauld, to the Empire Club of Toronto on February 2, 1973, as reported in the *Globe and Mail*. Let me quote several paragraphs of this speech so as to convince hon. members that the point of view I have expressed is not just one which is held by those who belong to the New Democratic