

Income Tax

Mr. Alan Martin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): 1. Nil.

2. Nil.

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[Translation]

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, notice of motion for the production of papers No. 54 is acceptable to the government.

I ask that all remaining notices of motions for the production of papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Are the other notices for motions allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

COPY OF STUDIES REFERRED TO BY POSTMASTER GENERAL

Motion No. 54—**Mr. Dinsdale:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the studies referred to by the Postmaster General at page 6530 of the House of Commons *Debates* of June 10, 1977, in his reply to questions raised by the hon. member for Don Valley.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Monday, November 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-11, to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds, be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in speaking to this bill I want to say that I certainly do not support it. I do not support any legislation which will give this government the power to borrow up to \$9 billion, because I do not think the government is fit or competent to spend \$1, much less \$9 billion. If hon. members opposite do not object, I should like to point out that the government brought the economy of Canada to heel. It brought the economy to a standstill and has given it a fearsome dart in the last five or six years. It mismanaged the economy of this country, which imperiled our lives. We are on the same slippery slope which the United Kingdom travelled after the war. The U.K. had much more reason to do that than we have: we have no reason to be on that slippery slope at all, except the mismanagement of our economy. The government has brought in this legisla-

[Mr. McKenzie.]

tion which contains critical measures to stimulate the economy and get us going again. There is nothing in this legislation which will stimulate the Canadian economy and get it going again. In fact, it is far from it.

Our general economic position is a desperate one. There are no signs of progress. The Economic Council of Canada has given us the picture. Soon it will be abolished because it has given truthful opinions about the record of the government. In its annual review the Economic Council of Canada pointed out that we face a resurgence in inflation. The fact that the cost of living went up by 1 per cent to an 8.8 per cent annual rate in September and October confirms what the Economic Council of Canada has indicated.

The Council also foresaw heavy unemployment continuing and growing worse, failing businesses, failing consumer confidence and large government debts. Surely this bill is proof of large government debts. The government wants us to authorize the borrowing of another \$9 billion. That would be another \$9 billion for this group of spendthrifts to misappropriate, with large current account deficits stretching into the years ahead.

The deficit balance in our balance of international payments will exceed \$4 billion this year. Yesterday, in St. John's, a newspaper columnist said that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) should wear a wreath in his buttonhole—not a rose—when he comes to Newfoundland next week. That columnist is dead-on. The Prime Minister should go to Newfoundland in mourning for the unemployed. At the present moment we have 29,000 unemployed in Newfoundland.

Dealing with unemployment, at the present time it is 11.4 per cent in Quebec; 17.4 per cent in Newfoundland; 14.6 per cent in New Brunswick; 10.7 per cent in Nova Scotia, and 11.2 per cent in Prince Edward Island. The average in the Atlantic provinces is 13.5 per cent. The youth unemployment rate in Newfoundland is 24.9 per cent. The percentage of the labour force looking for work and still unemployed for three months in Newfoundland is 43 per cent. The Prime Minister should go to Newfoundland in black; he should go with a wreath in his buttonhole and dressed in black, accompanied by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: The other day the Minister of Finance said with great pride in this chamber that the increased employment this year was 257,000. He was trying to fool the television audience.

Mr. Chrétien: The figure was 292,000.

Mr. Crosbie: All right, 292,000. The figure I have for the increase in the labour force this year is 365,000, but it is probably more than that. We are all aware of the fact that every year more people will be employed as long as our population continues to grow. The increase in the labour force is outrunning the increase in the number of jobs created. What good is there in the Minister of Finance flapping his wings and indicating that the number of employed people has increased?