

*Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act***ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

EXCISE TAX ACT—TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I hereby table in both official languages two copies of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act and ask that an Order of the Day be designated for its consideration.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PETROLEUM AND GAS REVENUE TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. McDougall that Bill C-8, an Act to amend the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act, be read the second time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I think we should revert to questions and comments on the speech made by the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). Are there any questions or comments?

[Translation]

Mrs. Maily: Mr. Speaker, if my hon. colleague from Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) would pay attention, I would like to ask him a question.

I would like to ask the Hon. Member whether he agrees that some of those people he has been insulting for the last twenty minutes, using every kind of epithet—and I have only one word for this kind of treatment but I will not say it—but in any case, some of the people out West whom he has been insulting are entrepreneurs, Canadians who are investing their energies, their imagination, their money, their dreams and their desires to help their fellow Canadians by creating jobs. These entrepreneurs out West are Canadians too, and they are people who create jobs. Nevertheless, my hon. colleague from Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) gives the impression that they are just a bunch of thieves without any conscience at all, whose only purpose in life is to get rich.

I would like to ask him a very serious question. Does he not agree that the oil industry creates jobs, as was said so aptly by my hon. colleague from Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Tupper)? When there is a drop in production in the oil industry out West, Canadians in Ontario and Quebec are the ones who suffer. They are still suffering today, and many are unemployed because production went down as a result of a number

of signals that, I think, were aimed at scaring off investors and at punishing, as the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) would love to do, at punishing people who prefer to make money through their own energies and efforts instead of getting grants and cheques. In the latter case, they can just sit back and let the State take charge of their lives, tell them where to work, what to do, where to invest—

Does my hon. colleague not have the energy and the interest for a serious debate of a few minutes, instead of indulging in rhetoric which adds nothing to the debate because it is too doctrinaire, emotional and ideological?

● (1500)

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that I did not call the entrepreneurs names; I called the members of the Conservative Party lackeys. That is not an indecent term, it is an endearing term. It is an endearing term between the Conservatives and their bosses in the oil patch.

I might point out to the Hon. Member that these poor entrepreneurs have done well in exploiting the resources of Canada.

[Translation]

Mrs. Maily: Answer the question!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am sorry.

[English]

Would the Hon. Member allow the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) to finish his answer?

Mr. Rodriguez: I do not mind the Hon. Member asking me a question. After I have answered it, I suppose she will tell me that I am wrong.

Mrs. Maily: Answer it.

Mr. Rodriguez: I will. Just listen and be patient.

Mrs. Maily: No.

Mr. Rodriguez: Oh, she does not want to be patient. Well, she must make up her mind.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I realize it is Friday, but the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt has the floor. Would he please answer the question. Could we please have a little order.

Mr. Rodriguez: The poor entrepreneurs which I have ridiculed today have done very well in exploiting Canadian resources. They were offered PIP grants. Over a five-year period \$8.6 billion was budgeted for the oil companies. To do what? To exploit Canadian resources and then charge us an arm and a leg for those resources. The entrepreneurs have done extremely well. Some of the oil companies in Canada have made spectacular profits but have not paid a penny in income tax.