

Income Tax Act, 1986

Bank and the Northland Bank and then came running to the taxpayers. I think of the football club, the Calgary Stampeders, which, when it gets in trouble, comes to the public trough for a bail-out. I think of Inco and Falconbridge which received all kinds of tax concessions over the years, and yet the jobs have gone down the tubes.

I would like to put on the record that a study by the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion in February of 1985 shows that small and medium-sized businesses had a net job growth of about 375,000 between 1978 and 1982. In contrast, large businesses show a net job growth of less than 50,000. However, the tax and profit situation for the corresponding period, 1977 to 1981, gave the exact opposite picture. It was large businesses that saw their share of total corporate tax breaks increase from 64.5 per cent in 1977 to 71.9 per cent in 1981. They also saw their effective federal tax rate fall from 18.2 per cent to 14.3 per cent and their after-tax profits increase by 107.5 per cent over the same period. So don't talk to me about risk-taking and job creation.

Mr. Ravis: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping to speak to Bill C-84 this afternoon but, unfortunately, we are running out of time. However, I do have some comments and questions. It is interesting to hear the Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), the same old NDP destructive machine, making nothing but negative comments. I am beginning to wonder whether I have ever heard anything positive come out of the ranks over there. The reason that an NDP member is not representing my constituency in the House of Commons at this time is because my constituents got tired of it. They wanted to turn the country around and to hear something positive for a change. They were tired of the constant wailing that everything is negative about the world and that we should destroy it. That is not our way. We want to turn things around and we are making some very good progress.

How does the Member for Nickel Belt feel about the last 16 years of the great socialist experiment that this country went through? How good was that for the country? Why are we in the mess that we are in right now? I have a copy of the report of the OECD, a very well-respected international agency. They have placed Canada in much better light than it was in before. When I was running for election, Canada was "tail-end Charlie" with regard to many of the key economic indicators. Canada's growth today is ahead of that of the United States. The only country that is ahead of us in that regard is Japan on the Pacific rim. We are ahead of our fellow industrialized nations in the western world.

I would like the Member for Nickel Belt to respond to many of the accomplishments made by the Government in the last while. Why does he want to go back to the old socialist ways practised by the Liberal Government in the country? I will give the Member a chance to be positive for a change. Does he expect all of these things to happen overnight? What kind of time frame is he putting this in? We gave the other fellows 16 years. We have been here only 16 months, and look at the accomplishments that have taken place. I would like the Hon. Member to answer that honestly by telling us how he feels we

have been doing in the last 16 months in terms of the number of people who have got back to work, the economic confidence in the country, and the number of people who have intentions of, not only making investments, but hiring people in the coming months.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I have a better model than the 16-month reign of the Tory Party at the federal level. The better model that I would choose is the Government of Manitoba which has—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: Just listen and be informed. The Province of Manitoba has the highest rate of private capital investment per capita with the lowest unemployment rate in the country. I think that is the model, Mr. Speaker. I can refer back to the 17 years that Tommy Douglas governed the Province of Saskatchewan. When former Premier Blakeney left office in Saskatchewan the Budget was balanced and he had a heritage fund with bucks in it. What has happened to the heritage fund? It is a "zilcho". The Tories with Devine have blown it. What happened to the deficit? It has gone up, up, and away.

Mr. Taylor: Why did the people kick him out?

Mr. Rodriguez: Tories and Liberals have run Canada for the last hundred-and-some-odd years and look at where we are today.

Mr. Crosbie: Yes, just look.

Mr. Rodriguez: I remember when the Leader of the Liberal Party was here. When he left and went into private law practice, because he could not get along with his Leader, the Tories were scratching around for a leader. The rumour was that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) went down to Toronto and they had lunch at Winston's. He tried to convince the Leader of the Official Opposition in the House to be the Leader of the Tories. We have to put a sign up here: "Crossing. Beware".

Mr. Riis: "Tory crossing".

Mr. Rodriguez: They can go back and forth.

Mr. Crosbie: What about your buddy up in the Senate, Hazen Argue? What about him?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that the period for questions and comments is now terminated. I will recognize the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount (Mr. Johnston).

[Translation]

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I have only a few minutes until the end of debate to make my comments to the House.