

*Government Orders*

immediately. The only way to correct it is to reject the recommendations of that task force.

Those people who came before the task force said that it is an unfair tax and proposed different ways to deal with it. The chairperson of the task force decided that instead of dealing with this in a fair manner, he would simply move the boundaries north in order to get away from the squabbles and arguments that were occurring in some of these communities. They wanted to set it up so that it would be far enough away from the population so that there would not be much fighting over where the boundary line is.

In terms of neighbours, you are talking about two people who live in a community, two people who have separate properties and put a fence down the property line. One person decides that that fence is in the wrong place and starts to argue over where that fence should be. This government is proposing to expropriate the land, pull down the fence and force those people to live under rules which no longer apply to them. It is a situation that creates a worse unfairness than that which existed before, and that has to be corrected. It is not going to be corrected at all when we have to deal with legislation like that which is in front of us today which calls for the continued increased in taxes.

I might indicate that under all the circumstances that we see here the average northern family in Canada can look at increased costs of \$710 a year as a result of the budget this year of the Minister of Finance, and \$1,000 after the tax reform of the government has been implemented by 1991.

It reminds me of a story that I heard recently about a young fellow by the name of Brian who was going to school. The teacher found young Brian out in the schoolyard just a hammerin' on one of his schoolmates. The teacher said to young Brian: "Why are you pounding on your friend? You have him down. Why are you hitting him when he is down?" Young Brian looked up at his teacher and said: "Well, that is what I got him down for, teacher".

That is exactly what this government is trying to do to people of the north. It has them down and is continuing to hammer at them; first of all with excise tax increases, second with the removal of tax benefits that equalizes

their ability to live in the north and, finally, with the goods and services tax. Hit them when they are down. That is exactly what this government is attempting to do here.

We can look at what the excise tax means to the people of the north. There is a 10 per cent telecommunications tax. If there is anything that technology in this country is doing, it is improving the ability of northern Canadians to communicate for health purposes, for business purposes, and for many other purposes that make life a little easier in the north. No sooner is the technology available to assist northern Canadians to live their lives better than the government comes along and puts on a new tax that makes it more expensive for them to utilize those new technologies.

We can also look at building materials. This excise tax bill increases the cost of construction in the north, a direct cost on something that is already very expensive. We know that people in the northern communities, the Indian and Métis communities, or just any of the communities in northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia, and other parts of the country, the costs of construction and the costs of living are much higher than anywhere else. This government comes along and says that it is going to make it more costly for them to live there and is doing absolutely nothing to try to equalize those costs through the tax benefit program that is being removed.

There are quite a number of things that I would like to say. I could go on and talk about the goods and services tax. Before I conclude today, I should mention briefly that witnesses appearing before the finance committee talking about the cost of living in the north indicated that it is possible that the implementation of the goods and services tax could cost northern Canadians as much as 26 to 30 per cent more for their goods because of the way in which the tax will be calculated on transportation and the handling of goods that are going up to the north.

We are talking about things that are not taxed and will not be taxed under the existing legislation. Food in the north will actually be taxed because it has to be transported to the north. That transportation will be taxed, as you are very much aware, Madam Speaker. That is not going to be subject to the rebate program that the government has been talking about.