

On income tax

THE budget debate is still on in our National Assembly so that my suggestion concerning the payment of income tax remains relevant.

It was quite ironical to hear Finance Minister, Dr Herrigel, making remarks in his budget speech about closing the loopholes in the system of taxing perks which salary earners receive.

Who gets more perks than the Honourable Minister and his fellow members of the National Assembly and they do not even pay tax on their large income.

This is what I find lacking in the so-called debate about the budget in the Assembly. People are patting themselves on the backs and congratulating the Finance Minister about a sup-

posedly progressive budget, instead of addressing the burning problem that they, like the Pharisees in Biblical times, "bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves will not move them with their finger" (Mathew 23:4).

I ask simply and humbly that our National Assembly legislate that they themselves, who, after all, earn more than anybody else, pay income tax on their salaries and perks.

It is no excuse that it is regarded as tradition worldwide that members of governments do not pay taxes. It is a mark of true leadership that those in government should not require of their subjects anything which they are not prepared to do or give themselves.

Let Namibia become an example to governments the world over that we are a true

democracy even in this respect. It is only when the minister of finance of a country and his peers in government are subject to the same obligations as other citizens of that country that they will be sensitive to the problems and needs of their fellow citizens.

I hereby invite other concerned Namibians to take up this debate in this newspaper so that it will hopefully become a concern for our government.

**STEVE TITUS
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Reply to workers

BASED on your letters of the 23rd and 24th May 1991 (in The Namibian) respectively, the Minister of Works, Trans-