

Madam Deputy Speaker: Can we have a short answer from the hon. member? The time has expired.

Mr. Baker: Madam Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that it will be a priority of the new Liberal government to substantially revise tax policy in this country.

It will give adequate notice of any changes and seek the opinion of all groups affected. I would like to point out to the hon. member once again in closing that when his party talks about loopholes, it is not loopholes they are talking about. As I think I have mentioned in the House before, a loophole is defined as an unintentional error in the structure or design of the law. Most of what the NDP talks about is intentional change to the structure and design of the law. It is what the Auditor General should be investigating, that is tax expenditures. That is what the hon. gentleman is referring to.

• (1320)

The Liberal tax policy will be vastly different from the policy today. I can assure the honourable House and Canadian people that the number of people making over \$250,000 a year who will be paying no income tax at all in this country is going to get down and not up like it is under this administration.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Would there be unanimous consent of the House to call it 1.30 p.m.?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: It being 1.30 p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1.21 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

RIGHT HON. BRIAN MULRONEY

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, in light of yesterday's announcement by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, I would like to say a personal thank you to him.

As a new MP from a part of Nova Scotia with lots of challenges, I appreciate that he has always been accessible and approachable. He has always addressed my concerns quickly and effectively. Whether the problem was a factory in trouble or just a request to call my daughter on her birthday because I could not be there, he always responded.

I am proud to be part of his government that made record strides on behalf of women, minorities, natives and the disabled.

I believe that some day he will be credited with anticipating the effects of globalization and for creating a successful strategy to prepare Canada for it.

I would like to say to the people of Cumberland—Colchester that we have been well served by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Personally, I am truly very grateful to him.

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AGRICULTURE

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, the residents and constituents of Northumberland county wish the Prime Minister and the government had been as attentive to their needs.

Emergency assistance for cash croppers of corn and soybeans in my riding of Northumberland need help. Presently federally supported insurance programs have not provided the help needed. However, in today's estimates we see that instead of filling the program gaps we have further cuts to these programs.

In Northumberland county the weather conditions during the summer and fall of 1992 devastated corn and soybean crops. Approximately 80 per cent of the grain corn and 20 per cent of the soybean crops were not harvested. The direct income lost to county farmers is estimated at \$7.8 million with spin-off economic losses of up to \$78 million.