

Yes, every Canadian has expressed a concern in that the Budget affects them all, but every senior citizen who has had a conversation with me has ended up by saying that they understand this Budget is for the benefit of all Canadians and even though they are going to have a part in paying for the difficult financial situation the former Government gave us, they support it wholeheartedly and they are behind this Budget.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments.

● (1730)

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Hon. Member concerns some of the measures in the Budget, particularly the indexation of pensions to senior citizens. There are approximately 6,000 senior citizens in my riding, each of whom will lose \$100 a year as a result of the Government's disastrous Budget. That is an amount of some \$60,000 that will be lost to senior citizens of my riding. Would the Hon. Member tell us if he believes it is fair that Lawrence Hanigan and Roy McMurtry, two Tory losers, will receive increases in salary of \$38,000 a year and \$22,000 a year for a total of \$60,000 a year? Will he ask his Minister to cancel the salary increase of those two individuals and restore the indexation of the pensions of my constituents?

Mr. Duguay: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to that question. Let me tell the Hon. Member that I too have a large number of senior citizens in my constituency. Many of them understand the meaning of the word "lost". The Hon. Member just entered the House, so he may have missed some of my earlier comments about striking fear in the older people in this country. Let me tell him about the fear that he just tried to strike into people. When we talk about something being lost, it is the loss of something that we already had. He is talking about incremental increases which would have been added if full indexation had been continued. No senior citizen will be losing money that he or she is currently receiving. They will be receiving more money than they had before. They simply will not be getting the full indexation that would have applied.

Mr. Boudria: What school of economics did that come from?

Mr. Duguay: Your projections are like what was said by the Club of Rome in the early 1970s when they used population graphs and studied food supplies to come to the conclusion that soon there would be nothing to eat on this planet. This is the kind of fear he is striking in senior citizens, and he ought to be more responsible as a Member of Parliament.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, is the Member denying that senior citizens of this country will be losing \$100 a year in real, inflation adjusted dollars? If he is denying that, will he table the statistics to prove otherwise? Everyone else, including backbenchers of his own caucus, have admitted that. If he does not, perhaps he could show us just how he calculates that my constituents and his will not be losing \$100 each, in real inflation adjusted dollars, because of that disastrous Budget?

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Mr. Duguay: Mr. Speaker, it should be very clear that when a Member of Parliament has to talk about the future of real, inflation adjusted dollars he cannot provide any real figures to support the future any better than I can.

Mr. Parry: Mr. Speaker, in responding to the Hon. Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Duguay), I would ask him to consider some figures reflecting very real losses. It is easy for him as a Member of Parliament to say that these losses to Canadian pensioners are national. He will not collect his old age pension for some 25 or 30 years. Therefore, it is rather easy for him to talk about what is and what is not a loss than it is for pensioners who will be suffering that loss. The annual cut to each pensioner in Canada as a result of deindexation will be \$100 in 1986 and 1987. It will be \$205 in 1988.

An Hon. Member: If they live.

Mr. Parry: The Hon. Member says "if they live". I hope the Tory Party, as a mass, is taking it somewhat more seriously than that. It will represent \$315 in 1988; \$423 in 1989 and \$553 in 1990 because just as interest compounds when it is added, so accumulative reduction in an increase that would otherwise take place also compounds when it is deducted.

The Hon. Member accuses members of my Party of spreading "fear and misery", I believe were his terms. Then he quotes a study of the Club of Rome, saying that there will not be enough food left for people to eat. While I know that he was not specifically referring to Canadian senior citizens, he knows how easy it is for things to be taken out of context in the House. Are senior citizens telling him that they are prepared to bear these cuts? Is he, unlike the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), able to name a single senior citizen organization that says that senior citizens in fact support these cuts and are prepared to see them go ahead as a result of the Budget?

Mr. Duguay: Mr. Speaker, it is the third time that a member of his Party has read the same numbers into the record. We heard them the first time.

Mr. Boudria: You didn't understand them the first time.

Mr. Duguay: Those figures imply future reductions that are based on their projections. They do not take into consideration the fact that Budgets are presented in the House annually, as indicated by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). They do not take into consideration that on January 1, 1986, the minimum tax will be brought in at the same time as these changes.

The point I am making is that Canadians are better served by their Members of Parliament when these questions are put into a broader perspective than focusing on one or two details and scaring senior citizens into believing that they must pay for all of the deficit reduction. The truth is that senior citizens and all Canadians have been asked to pay a little bit for the preservation of those things which we, as Canadians, have come to take for granted. Give senior citizens the choice of this minor reduction in their pensions—