

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from Canadians in the Vancouver area calling on the Government to rescind the deindexation proposals for family allowances. They call for the cut-back in family allowance and other benefits, which will amount to some \$600 million by 1990, to be reversed.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from a number of people in Vancouver and Burnaby in respect of the deindexation of family allowance benefits. The deindexation proposal, combined with tax increases, places an extraordinary burden on families.

The petition calls upon the House of Commons of Canada to reinstate the full indexation of family allowances and rescind the unfair tax increases that are hurting families.

An Hon. Member: Do it now!

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to present a petition submitted by residents of Vancouver, Burnaby and North Vancouver, calling upon the Government to turn back on its measures to grant bail-outs and to provide incentives and loopholes through the tax system and to concentrate, instead, on the needs of Canadian children and families by reinstating full indexation in respect of the universal Family Allowance Program.

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EXCISE TAX ACT AND RELATED ACTS

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (for the Minister of Finance) moved to introduce Bill C-80, an Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to amend other Acts in consequence thereof.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Minister have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. David Kilgour (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of External Relations): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 234 and 309.

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Question No. 234—**Mr. Howie:**

From January 1, 1984, to date, how many women are receiving survivor benefits as widows of (a) war veterans (b) retired armed forces personnel (c) retired members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (d) retired public servants?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of National Defence, Solicitor General, Treasury Board and Veterans Affairs as follows:

(a) The statistics maintained on survivor benefits do not differentiate between widows and widowers. As a result, the Department of Veterans Affairs cannot answer the question as formulated.

However, they can ascertain that most recipients of survivor benefits are women (the vast majority of veterans being men) and that the total number of recipients as of January 1985 was as follows:

War Veterans Allowance/Civilian War Allowance	34,719
War Disability Pension—Canadian Pension Commission	42,037
Persons receiving both	2,845

(b) There are two accounts maintained for surviving spouses eligible for benefits under the Defence Services Pension Continuation Act (DSPCA) or under the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA).

As of February 1, 1985 they were as follows:

Defence Services Pension Continuation Act (DSPCA)	827
Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA)	8667

(c) In so far as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is concerned, as of January 31, 1985 the following widows pensions were in payment:

RCMP Superannuation Act	334
RCMP Pension Continuation Act	105
RCMP Pension Continuation Act—Part IV	134

There are, in addition, 43 widows pensions in payment under the Pension Act. It is quite probable that in most, but not necessarily all of these cases that an RCMP Superannuation Act pension is also in payment.

Supplementary Benefit Income Plan for survivors of members of the RCMP killed on duty

(d) 36,103.

SERVICES AND SUBSIDIES TO BUSINESS STUDY TEAM

Question No. 309—**Mr. Gagliano:**

Are Mr. John Wynne of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Unions, Local 170, Burnaby, B.C. and Mr. Tom O'Sullivan of the PCO., members of the Deputy Prime Minister's mixed study team on Services and Subsidies to Business and, if so, what are their qualifications?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): The Team has completed its work and has been disbanded however, Mr. Wynne and Mr. O'Sullivan were indeed members of this Team. Mr. Wynne has had experience in chairing and participating in negotiating committees for