

wait for his tax reform. Since the Government has come into power, it is now taxing people who have taxable incomes of \$10. No Government has ever hit that low. The Government is now requiring poor people to report their welfare payments on their 1986 tax form. Why is the Government now requiring welfare recipients to report their welfare benefits on the tax form? When is the Government going to stop nickel and dimeing the very poor?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, on the one point that the Hon. Member makes, there have been discussions with Revenue Canada on that issue, and that is well in hand. For example, I wish to tell the Hon. Member that the Government has brought in employment initiatives, and \$100 million for social assistance. This matter was first raised 13 years ago at a federal-provincial meeting, and this Government has delivered on that. There have been programs for older worker adjustments, employment equity, the refundable sales tax credit which the Minister of Finance has mentioned again—

Mr. de Jong: You took half of it away on Wednesday.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): —the increase of the child tax credit, the advancement of the child tax credit, the changes to the Canada Pension Plan. Would the Hon. Member ask the Manitoba NDP Government why it took away disability from the very poor when we passed it here in this Government?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PRIVACY

APPLICATION OF STATUTE TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the Privacy Commissioner reported that the Privacy Act is currently being violated by Treasury Board requirements that public servants report on all outside activities and investments directly or indirectly related to their official responsibilities. The Commissioner also noted that public servants' privacy was endangered because supposedly confidential information required of them in compliance with conflict of interest regulations may be obtained by third parties under the Access to Information Act. What actions will the Government take to amend Treasury Board reporting requirements to ensure the confidentiality of personal information reported in good faith by public servants?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): In the absence of the President of the Treasury Board I will make a preliminary response to the question that the Hon. Member has just placed. The President of the Treasury Board has received this

report from the Privacy Commissioner. It has always been the intention of the Government to respect the provisions of the Privacy Act. Once the President of the Treasury Board has had an opportunity to review the report with his officials, he will then be in a position to determine what modifications should be made in the reporting provisions and other elements that affect public servants as may be deemed fit.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

EXTRA ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN PLACED ON SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. After slapping a tax on drugs for the sick, on dog food and on ice cream and candy for children, the Minister of Finance is going to reach into the pockets of small-business people with 20 employees. Does the Minister realize that by requiring small businesses to make payments every two weeks, he is adding to the paper burden and thus indirectly affecting their profits?

● (1150)

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member has this one wrong. It will only affect larger companies. It will not affect companies that have 20 employees.

Mr. Gagliano: For the Minister's information, Mr. Speaker, I did a calculation on 20 employees in Quebec. But if we go across Canada where the federal Government collects provincial tax, it is more.

EFFECT OF BOOKKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The new paper burden is a paper-thin excuse to cover the Minister's missed deficit projections on the backs of small business. Will the Minister raise the ceiling to exclude small business from his sneaky bookkeeping methods?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Member knows that we have been very supportive of the small business community. We have structured this particular provision so that I think it is something like 1.2 million businesses out of 1.3 million will not be affected by it.