

Income Tax Act

continue to bring forward legislation such as Bill C-11, the kinds of tax measures which help the people who need it.

That is not the only good news legislation the Government has brought forward. Certainly, there are many more areas the Government has addressed. We have improved the whole retirement scheme for Canada. It has probably gone unnoticed, but in fact that is one of the biggest social changes this country has seen for many years. It will again target the money the Government has for people who need it the most.

We have introduced major changes in the law governing minimum standards for private pension plans under federal jurisdiction. These changes will be particularly beneficial for part-time workers, the people who have the most difficulty getting secured pensions. Our legislation will change all that. It will also benefit the women in the workforce and the spouses of workers with pension plans.

These changes to target help for the people who need it most will take effect in 1987. That has been a consistent policy of the Government. We strengthened Canada's basic income support program by extending the spouse allowance to all widows and widowers aged 60 to 64 years. That was something the people had asked for for many years. Thousands of people in the low income brackets will be helped. That has been a general thrust of the Government.

The Government inherited an economic mess which it has had to overcome. I have read articles which indicate the Government is succeeding in creating an economic climate in which the economy can recover and the social net which is in place can be strengthened. We are not increasing the deficit by doing that, as did the previous Government. We are accomplishing it by targeting those areas which need help the most, and we shall continue to do that.

I congratulate the Government for bringing forward this tax amendment, Bill C-11. I am sure the people of Canada will recognize what we are trying to do and will understand that we intend to continue to do it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, since the Hon. Member who just concluded his speech referred to the deficit, I simply would like to ask him a question since he had so much praise for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). My question is: Will the Government honour its deficit predictions this year, and if so, by how much below or above the figure stated by the Minister in his February budget? Could he be specific as to what will happen to the deficit?

[*English*]

Mr. Dantzer: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that question. He will know that the first budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) was the only Budget in the last 40 years to come in on target. The Hon. Member will also know that the target was perhaps missed in the last Budget for very good reasons, for example, the dramatic drop in oil revenues and difficulties with some of our major exports.

However, the commitment of the Minister of Finance is clear. He intends to pursue his attack on the deficit and, because of his past record, I can assure the Hon. Member that his goals will be more closely reached than those of any Minister of Finance we have ever had in this country.

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today on Bill C-11, the child tax credit Bill. I would like to comment on the speech of the Hon. Member for Okanagan North (Mr. Dantzer). I think he did this Chamber proud by giving us that wonderful speech. He reminded us that there will be 10,000 families in his riding who will benefit as a result of this legislation. That is the kind of message that Hon. Members in this Chamber, not just those on the Government side but those who sit in the opposition benches, should be sending out to their own constituents, because this is indeed good news.

We are living in an extremely negative world. The news media want to report that which is negative, the catastrophes, the earthquakes and other calamities, those bad things which happen to people. If it is negative, it will capture the headlines. But we have here something which will not appear in the headlines of *The Ottawa Citizen* or the *Toronto Star* tomorrow. We have good news for our constituents back home. I believe Hon. Members opposite should applaud the efforts of the Government. I almost caught a couple of Members of the Opposition nodding in agreement—almost. They wanted to and their heads just started to nod before they caught themselves.

At a time when every penny counts for many hard-working Canadians, we are on an economic tightrope which the Government inherited from its predecessors. However, in the face of reality, I would like to recite a few things we have done. The Government has slashed Government expenditures. We are bringing some financial and fiscal responsibility to this office.

● (1240)

I wish to cite just one to Hon. Members. I refer to FIRA. The name itself almost scares the living daylights out of people; it is something of which to be afraid. Investors were afraid of it. They stayed away from our shores in droves, not providing the billions of dollars which we so desperately need for investment purposes. In turn, these investment dollars can create jobs and wealth. If we are to help people we have to create wealth first. I suppose that is in opposition to the philosophy of some of our socialist friends across the way who do not understand that type of thinking.

It is refreshing to note that in a short time we will be passing legislation which will prepare the way for an early payment of the child tax credit. This is a measure directed to those who need it most, to those who will clearly benefit as a result of its enactment. I am referring to those over 750,000 Canadians—some three-quarters of a million people—whose incomes are equal to or less than \$15,000 a year. As my colleagues have previously mentioned, the child tax credit currently provides