

*S.O. 21*

As the Member for Esquimalt-Saanich, and as a former member of this illustrious service, I call on the House to recognize officially the 75th anniversary of the Naval Service of Canada, and to express unanimously its gratitude to the men and women of our navy, both past and present, for their contribution to our country.

\* \* \*

**CURRENCY**

## COINAGE—SIZE OF NICKELS AND DIMES

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, in order to divert the attention of the House from some rather disappointing, if temporary, setbacks in the Province of Ontario, I have a burning question that I wish to bring to its attention. The question, Sir, is why are nickels bigger than dimes? When nickels were made of nickel and dimes were made of silver, this made sense. But today both coins are made from baser metals.

The subcommittee looking into the possible issuance of a dollar coin, a move which I strongly favour, has demonstrated its prowess in coinage matters. Perhaps after finishing its appointed task its talents could be applied to examining other coinage issues such as the one just mentioned. Another might be the future of the copper penny. Do we really need pennies? If so, should they continue to be made of expensive copper, an increase in price of which might lead to the hoarding and melting down of these coins?

The opportunity exists for a thorough revision of our coinage and the development of a logical and distinctively Canadian coinage system.

\* \* \*

● (1110)

[Translation]

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

## RECOMMENDATION THAT SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE BE EXTENDED TO SINGLE ELDERLY PERSONS IN NEED

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, for many months I have been asking the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to stop their unjust treatment of needy Canadians between the ages of 60 and 64 who are being denied the spouse's allowance just because they are single, separated or divorced.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Beatty) informed the House last week that more than 1,000 people earning \$100,000 or more do not pay a cent of income tax in Canada, which means an increase of 33 per cent over 1982. In addition, 6,000 people with an income of between \$50,000 and \$99,000 do not pay a cent of income tax in

Canada, which is 4,000 more than in 1982. And 6,700 people earning between \$40,000 and \$49,000 do not pay a cent of tax in Canada either, and this is 5,201 more than in 1982.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge all the Members of the House to ask the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Minister of social injustice in Canada to impose a minimum tax on people in the wealthiest groups, so that we can then extend the spouse's allowance to all elderly Canadians who are single and in need. The anti-social measures the Federal Conservatives want to take are similar to the ones that helped the Liberals win the popular vote in Ontario yesterday.

\* \* \*

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE ELDERLY

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, roughly 28,000 Quebec senior citizens had their old age security cheques reduced to the minimum this month and did not get any income supplement because they did not return the required application form before March 31.

Although they will get their supplement retroactively once the application has been received, many of these elderly people will have a hard time finding enough money to buy food or pay rent. The Government must see to it that administrative delays resulting from applications being received after the deadlines are reduced to a minimum. Instead of withholding the supplement in future, the Government would be better advised to send a cheque reduction notice to people who fail to return the application form one month before the deadline. The elderly would then be spared the unpleasant surprise of a sudden income drop.

In the case of a person living alone, Mr. Speaker, the supplement can amount to \$328 a month, or half the monthly income of the needy. Obviously, such a loss of income takes its toll on the elderly. We ought to realize that such administrative procedures are not always readily understood by older people. Mr. Speaker, it is better to tailor bureaucratic requisites to the special needs of older Canadians than to make them put up with Government red tape.

\* \* \*

[English]

**DISARMAMENT**

## WORLD-WIDE NEED OF PEOPLES

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have three beautiful children, and I said during the election campaign that if I do nothing more during my term as a public person than to keep our world free of a nuclear