

ism, Mr. Speaker, since we have heard it before from our colleagues from the other side of the House.

If you will recall, Mr. Speaker, I asked a question on universality to which the Minister of National Health and Welfare replied. I distinctly remember his answer. It was quite concise. He did say he was committed to the principle of universality. As I pointed out subsequently, there is a difference between principle and application.

In answer to the Hon. Member's question, I think it is quite obvious that the Tories cannot be trusted to pursue deficit reduction in a manner that is fair and equitable to all Canadians. The Budget discriminates against many sectors of Canadian society. Families with children are penalized in this Budget. One-parent families are penalized. Seniors are penalized. Women are most definitely penalized.

I trust that Hon. Members from the other side of this House will search their souls and rectify the inequities that currently exist in the Budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I guess I am provoked by this latest exchange to make a comment. The comment is this: I have heard a lot of nonsense from the Conservative Party over the years, and not only from the Minister of Housing (Mr. Redway). He has usually been able to put points of view across that have reflected some understanding of reality and some sense of fairness. But he would have us believe that it is fair for a person who is aged 35 and making \$100,000 a year should be paying a lower tax rate—

• (1420)

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I would love to have the opportunity to debate the Hon. Member. He appears to want to debate me now, but this is an opportunity for questions and comments. If you will allow me equal time to respond to the Hon. Member after his comment directed at me rather than the Speaker, I would be pleased to do so, sir.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The period for questions and comments, of course, as the Member knows, is reserved for comments on the speech made by the Hon. Member for Mississauga East (Ms. Guarnieri).

Mr. Langdon: In that case, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it quite clear that I thought the Member was absolutely correct, contrary to some of the silly suggestions from across the way, in pointing out that when you have a system of universality, what you succeed in doing is creating a system that in tax terms is fair. At the

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present stage, of course, pensions are taxable and they are taxable at the rate at which any other piece of income is taxable. As the Member suggested, what this will do is create a situation where we take this special little piece of income, which is the return to senior citizens for the years of work they have put into this country, and we will tax it at a higher rate; in fact, ultimately at a confiscatory rate.

Mr. Kilgour: Very interesting.

Mr. Langdon: We are going to take everything away from these senior citizens. Why is it that those people should be chosen? That is the question I guess I would ask the Member who has spoken. It seems to me that this reflects the clear commitment against pensions right from the beginning of the Conservative Party and I would ask the Member if she would see things in those terms, too.

Ms. Guarnieri: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his insightful comments.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Guarnieri: I spoke from the heart. I never studied to be a court jester, so you will have to forgive me if I am not as entertaining as the Hon. Member across from me.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Guarnieri: I think that is a very insightful question that the Hon. Member put to me. In return I would like to put it to the individuals where I think the question belongs, that is, to the Members opposite us.

Why have they penalized the weak, the vulnerable elements of our society?

Mr. Beatty: The weak rich. The upper income weak.

Ms. Guarnieri: We have heard from the Tories this theory of Robin Hood. Well, I maintain that they are the Sheriffs of Nottingham, not the Robin Hoods of this world.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, it is nice to know that a new Member of the Chamber has taken the trouble to read a speech of mine from 1983.

I had the honour as a new Member in this House in 1979 to speak second on the Budget. I took great pride in rising in this House to inform the Members that in my view the 1979 Crosbie Budget—and I had the honour to speak after the then Hon. Minister of Finance—was the fairest Budget to poor people that had been presented to this House in the 1970s, and I watched the Members of the New Democratic Party and the Members of the Liberal Party in the House at that time stand up, vote