

Family Allowances Act, 1973

thing the Hon. Member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) said was wrong, dead wrong.

Mr. Orlikow: You are the only person who thinks so.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I simply cannot leave the matter on the record and allow the debate to continue on points made by the Member that are wrong.

First, he said that the Government was withdrawing \$31.50 a month from the family allowance. That is wrong. That is the payment, first, on a monthly basis.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I must have unanimous consent to allow the Minister to speak again because I notice he spoke on December 11. Is there unanimous consent for the Minister to speak?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Ms. Mitchell: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret that the Minister cannot continue. The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I would have loved to have heard the rest of the Minister's speech. I had a feeling that his next statement was going to be that he wanted to withdraw the Bill. If he can give us an assurance that that is what he was going to do next, I am sure I could get our colleague who disagreed to reconsider her decision and so give the Minister the opportunity to withdraw this hideous piece of legislation before us today. However, we should not hold our breath.

Here we are again giving a last kick at the can on Bill C-70, a last attempt by members of this House to convince the Government either to withdraw its Bill, to amend it, or to improve it.

An Hon. Member: No way.

Mr. Boudria: A Tory Member across the way has said not to count on that. This is the same group of Members who in the past were speaking in favour of the Bill to deindex senior citizens pensions when the Government was in the process of withdrawing that particular measure. I warn the Hon. Member across the way who says that the Government will not withdraw this legislation that if he and others were a little more dedicated to working in the interests of their constituents, instead of supporting the Government on positions not even knowing whether the Government will pursue them in the future, his interests and those of the electors whom he purports to represent would be far better served.

● (1130)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind you of the representations received by the House of Commons on Bill C-70. I want to point out that, on September 25, 1985, the *Réseau d'action*

et d'information pour les femmes wrote a special delivery letter to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to inform him that the Bill to de-index family allowances was "a disaster".

Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 1985, the *Confédération des organismes familiaux du Québec* presented a submission to the Parliamentary Committee also expressing the view that Bill C-70 should be withdrawn.

On October 23, 1985, the *Fédération des unions de familles incorporée* made similar comments.

On October 21, the *Fédération des femmes canadiennes françaises, section Sacré-Cœur* of Ottawa, also expressed the same views.

[English]

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women also expressed disagreement with this budgetary measure.

[Translation]

The Federation of Quebec Women, in October 1985, also presented a similar brief. In October 1985, the Federation of Quebec Associations of Single-Parent Families opposed the measure.

Another group, AFEAS, also stated in a brief on October 30, 1985, that the legislation should either be withdrawn or amended.

The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women has also objected to Bill C-70.

[English]

Also we received a submission from the Deputy Minister and the Minister of Community and Social Services of the Government of Manitoba concerning this Bill. As well, the Calgary Coalition for the Support of Persons on Welfare sent a brief expressing disapproval of this budgetary initiative. We have received briefs from countless organizations across the country.

The Government claims to be one that consults with Canadians. We have heard that in the past. The Tories have said in the House and elsewhere that they were not a Government of confrontation, I guess that is the word they used. They have indicated that they want to consult and truly represent the people of Canada. Today is the last chance they have to prove that in the case of Bill C-70 they in fact consult the people, listen, participate fully in the consultative process and come out of it, not only having heard the briefs but having listened to them. That is the part that is important. This is the last chance that the Government has to prove that it listens to the people of Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, in October 1985, a group of Liberal Members of Parliament chaired by myself had several Canadians, several groups submitting briefs to them on the Budget. One group of Canadians who submitted a brief to the Liberal Forum in August 1985 was the Prescott and Russell union of social assistance recipients, in my constituency. And without reading