

Some Hon. Members: Abolish it, abolish it.

Mr. Mulroney: There is nothing worse than when two sweethearts yell at one another. Now stop that.

What we are attempting to do, for which we received a mandate from the Canadian people, is to utilize, not the distortions of the Opposition—

Mr. Gauthier: A sacred trust you said.

Mr. Mulroney: —not the yelling and screaming—

Ms. Copps: A sacred trust you called it.

Mr. Mulroney: —or not the sweet sounds from the Member for Hamilton East. We received a mandate to utilize, in a proper and sane way, the moneys available, to put more money into the hands of those in our society who need it most, while respecting the principle of universality for all Canadians who have contributed to those programs. That is what we are going to do.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman used to speak about civility in the House of Commons. If he wants civility in the House he can achieve it by replying to our questions with courtesy and directness.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I mentioned yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that I objected strenuously to being misquoted. I said this morning to the members of the media that I recognize the primacy of the elected House of Commons over the Senate. That is my position, it has always been my position, and the right hon. gentleman knows it.

Would the Prime Minister allow the House of Commons, and, through the House, the people of Canada, some certainty that if there is going to be a two-tier social security system the Canadian people will know what it is? The Minister of Finance says no, the Minister of Health says maybe, and the Prime Minister says yes. If the Government of Canada does not know what it is going to do, why did it start this confusion in the first place? Will they clarify it for the people of Canada?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we know exactly what we are going to do.

Some Hon. Members: Tell us, tell us.

Mr. Mulroney: My right hon. friend quite properly speaks of the requirement of civility. I know that that has been his conduct, as I think it has been mine. It is difficult for him to justify it with the kind of misconduct coming from the Mem-

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bers behind him. They are the ones who have been interrupting the House while I have been trying to provide answers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1425)

Mr. Mulroney: Our objective is to maintain the integrity of our social programs in Canada for the benefit of all Canadians who have contributed to them. That is maintaining the universal concept. Secondly, we plan to maintain as well those other programs which we have introduced in our first initiatives and made allowances for, to help, for example, those elderly people between 60 and 64 who need it, and the veterans who are entitled to it. We have done nothing except to invite mature debate from the Opposition.

Some Hon. Members: Let's have a debate.

Mr. Mulroney: It appears in certain circumstances that is unlikely, but it will not deter us from our initiatives, namely, to enhance the well-being of Canadians by a proper universal system which benefits Canadians who need it most of all. There is the contribution.

TAXATION QUERY

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, almost every day the Government offers us a new candidate for the program *That's Incredible*.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, good line, Don.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, I sat with the Minister of Finance on *The Journal* the night of his mini-Budget, and he was asked if there was going to be a tax increase. He remembers what he said. He said no, increased taxes are not the way to go. Yesterday the Minister of National Health and Welfare told the press that there was going to be a general tax increase to tax back social benefits. Then, of course, we had a clarification—we should become accustomed to that—later, which said it was going to be a special tax to tax back social benefits.

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Johnston: Will the Minister of Finance tell us if he is going to levy a general tax across the board to bring these social benefits back into the treasury, or is he going to apply a special tax?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the nature of the debate we would like to have, if we could get by the partisan bickering of the Opposition—

Mr. Chrétien: We are ready today.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The purpose of the debate is to discuss the very issues the Hon. Member is raising.

Mr. Gauthier: Exactly.