

Concerning the affluent people earning \$50,000 and more, it is true that they do not need me to defend them, but having dealt for 25 years with social issues, I know that governments always start with the rich and finish with the poor. Remember the time when the PQ Government decided to reduce to \$130 the social assistance paid to young Quebecers because it felt that these people were lazy and that eventually they would get a job. What happened? These young people began shooting drugs and got involved in prostitution to survive. That is only the start! If you told me that there are no other areas where the Government could get money, that all affluent people pay their fair share of income tax, that all corporations pay their dues, I would reply: We must change the social programs. If we want to save on social programs, let us establish a guaranteed annual income.

We have twelve social programs, especially the way you operate, to provide assistance to people. Which means that if we were to put together in the same group the mothers with children, the aged and the unemployed, we could considerably reduce the overhead and give more to the really poor people. But what you are proposing is not a solution to improve our social programs but strictly a means to reduce your deficit by taking away money from those people you should leave alone. Senior Canadians are not responsible for creating this deficit! You would like to go to these people who are 65 years of age and who have lived sparingly all their lives to be able to save a little money and today— Our generation seems to be saying: Our parents are used to paying through the nose. Let them continue to pay, because we are not going to. Personally, I object. My parents have made enough sacrifices. It's our turn to make sacrifices and to attack the affluent, the banks, the really rich, in order to get rid of this debt forever.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please! There are only two minutes left. The Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) may use up one, than the other Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) the other.

M. Della Noce: Mr. Speaker, I definitely want the record to show, what the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) said earlier. He claimed to be standing up for the people earning over \$50,000 because he is afraid of what will happen some day to

those who earn \$10,000. I do hope his predictions are incorrect and that time will prove him wrong.

But I was most stunned by what he said after that. He maintained that only the fathers and mothers of Hon. Members of this House earn \$50,000. Now I want to tell my colleague what my mother was left with after working her whole life. She is now in a hospital, in a home where she has to pay \$860 per month even though she only gets \$545 per month in guaranteed income supplement. With the provincial supplement, that amounts to \$8,000 a year. So, you see, my mother does not belong to the group the Hon. Member of Laurier—Sainte-Marie was referring to. Let us talk about what she got from the social services your party gave us— It is too bad that you did not see things that way before, that the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie did not feel that way before, because what you left us is not much to live on, my mother only gets \$8,160 a year. It's a good thing she has a son to pay the difference since it costs \$860 per month! There might be others in a similar situation, I don't know.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Muffler here may not know that the Conservatives were against all the measures we proposed in order for his mother to get \$8,000. But already, the Hon. Member thinks the benefits are not high enough and he is ready, probably because the rent at his mother's home is going up— The reason being that your government has cut health care services by another \$200 million. If your mother is getting poorer, you only have yourself to blame for it!

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): I listened with interest to the speech of the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), as I did to questions and his answers.

What surprised me most in the thirty minutes he spoke were the words: Your deficit! That is what he said, as we will read in Hansard on Monday: Your deficit! While we know very well, Mr. Speaker, that it is not our deficit, that it is the country's deficit that started with his Liberal Government which was in office for twenty years!

Mr. Speaker, let me answer the various points he raised. For one thing, Mr. Speaker, regarding medicare, we know the federal Government transfers money to the provinces mainly in two ways. First through what we call