

Family Allowances Act, 1973

individuals. The Government did not once question the loss of tax revenues as a result of tax decisions made by Revenue Canada. It did not question the amount the corporate sector paid toward tax revenues and so it created a system in which the rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that is no way to generate the political will to undertake the national debate we so badly need. It is not the fault of the Opposition Party. It is the fault of the governing Party for having failed to properly put into perspective the necessary tools so that that debate could have occurred. I can think of no other shame than the failure of the Conservative Government to bring into the House of Commons a social security package which would benefit those lower income groups and achieve the necessary political will in this country. The Government has now lost the opportunity.

program as not having any impact on the Family Allowance. He said it was introduced to lower inflation. Well, it lowered inflation from 11 per cent to 7 per cent.

Mr. Gauthier: Oh, no. To 4 per cent. Be honest. Don't be a hypocrite. Get your facts straight.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): But unemployment went from 7 per cent to 11 per cent, which reminds me of the 711 stores which went bankrupt in just the way the former Government was taking us down the fiscal path to bankruptcy.

Mr. Gauthier: That is nonsense.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We have talked of fairness during this debate and I want to ask the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) if he thinks it is fair that the Liberals destroyed the family allowance base by seriously eroding it in 1976 and 1979?

Mr. Gauthier: You cannot be serious.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, the assumption that the Government's introduction of the six and five program led to a decrease in over-all benefits has to be taken into context. When we introduced the six and five legislation, inflation in this country was running in the double digits. Within 11 months of the introduction of the six and five program, inflation had fallen to below 4 per cent. The net effect in terms of purchasing power from the six and five program was zero or minimum.

I would like to suggest one other thing, Mr. Speaker. This is where one finds out the difference between a Liberal and a Conservative. At least, under the six and five program we had the intelligence and compassion to double index the poor in our society in order to make sure that none of the poor suffered as a result of that program. That is more than I can say for this Conservative Government. When it introduced the Budget on the night of May 23, it was going to deindex every senior citizen without any care for those senior citizens who already lived below the poverty line. Perhaps the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner) would care to respond to that.

Mr. Keeper: Mr. Speaker, I have a comment and I guess it could be construed as a question. I am really quite shocked that the Conservatives somehow feel it is sufficient when they receive criticism from us, and from the Liberals, about what they are doing to Family Allowances, to simply say there is nothing wrong with what they are doing because the Liberals did it when they were in office. What a defence.

Mr. Frith: And we paid the price.

Mr. Keeper: And as my colleague said: "We paid the price", and the Liberals did pay the price for doing what the Tories are doing now. The Tories are now beginning to pay the price as is evident by the Gallup polls.

Mr. Frith: Mr. Speaker, I could not fail to reply to that leading question. I just fed the line to the Hon. Member for

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 46, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Medical care (a) Funding of cancer treatment centres. (b) Medical research; the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Insurance—Municipalities' difficulties in obtaining liability coverage; the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo)—Agriculture (a) United States and European Community wheat trading practices. (b) United States farm commodity subsidies.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACT, 1973

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Epp (Provencher) that Bill C-70, an Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973 be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Member?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I find it very, very painful to sit here and listen to this Liberal hypocrisy. We heard this morning from the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) who tried to justify the six and five