

environment. I know all Members of the House take it very seriously. I can assure my hon. friend that we will negotiate vigorously to improve the environment for all Canadians.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It also has to do with the remarks made by the Minister of the Environment. I just want to get this clear. Is the Prime Minister saying that when the Minister of the Environment said that Canada no longer regarded acid rain as a pressing international concern, and that it should simply be regarded as a question of bilateral relations, she was not speaking for the Government, and Canada will continue to regard acid rain as the international problem which it is universally recognized to be?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is no contradiction at all between the Minister and myself. It is clearly international in scope, but I think my hon. friend will agree that the manner in which it must be resolved is through serious bilateral negotiations, and that is precisely what we plan to do.

SOLUTIONS TO BE SOUGHT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, that is precisely the point. Of course acid rain is not just a bilateral question. It is also a national and an international question. We want to hear from the Prime Minister that the Government will continue to seek international solutions to what is also an international problem and not just a bilateral one. We have not yet got that assurance from the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the matter is so serious that we shall seek help and solutions anywhere that we can. I might even ask my hon. friend for his counsel in this regard.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

UNIVERSALITY OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS—SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, senior citizens and families in this country must be rather pained to see their Prime Minister acting like a clown.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, since some people—the Prime Minister never tells the truth, that is a habit of his—are saying that family allowances and pensions will not be cut. The Minister of Finance says the exact opposite. The Minister of National Health and Welfare states there will be a special tax. Can the Minister—

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: I assume the Hon. Member will withdraw the words: the... Minister never tells the truth. I presume he knows he cannot say that in the House.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I have been elected and re-elected as the Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie, and I was elected to come here and to tell the truth. What I said—

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to withdraw what he said about the Minister and his ability or practice with respect to telling the truth. He knows perfectly well he must withdraw those words.

Mr. Malépart:—the blues I said the Prime Minister has a habit of not always telling the truth, and I do not think I will withdraw those words, because it is the truth.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I invite the Hon. Member one more time to withdraw the statement.

[Translation]

I presume the Hon. Member is well aware that he used these words and made unparliamentary remarks, and that he now has an opportunity to withdraw them, or else I have no other recourse but the one he knows.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I can prove today that the Prime Minister did not say—

Mr. Speaker: I will give the Hon. Member another chance to withdraw what he said. Is the Hon. Member prepared to withdraw his remarks? I was listening to the Hon. Member when he said that the Prime Minister never told the truth or words to that effect. That is what I heard.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to seem stubborn, but I would have to see the blues. I have the impression I said that the Prime Minister does not always tell the truth.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would it suit Hon. Members on this side of the House to allow me to hear the Hon. Member? Why is it so difficult for Members to understand that, if I cannot hear the Member, nobody else can tell what he is saying? That is my problem.

[Translation]

I am sorry. I heard the Hon. Member and I thought he said the Prime Minister never told the truth. Is that what he said or else what did he say? I must know what he said in order to determine whether he should withdraw his remarks.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, as far as I can remember, I said that the Prime Minister does not always tell the truth. It is up to you to judge whether or not that is unparliamentary. I am not an expert on parliamentary procedure.