

for the programs for veterans, so what he said in the preamble to his question is dead wrong.

● (1420)

I might just observe that the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides is on record as saying that he oppose tax indexation. He has said that tax indexation is a short-sighted measure which may prevent government from efficiently fighting inflation, and that is what we are trying to do.

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[Translation]

THE BUDGET

SOCIAL PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

De-indexation is a tax, a clandestine, secret and hidden tax on the Canadian people. The Minister's secret forecasts, made public yesterday by the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides, indicate that by 1990, Canadians will suffer a net loss of \$630 million per year on deductions and tax credits for children. Is the Minister of Finance prepared to admit to the House today that he is making huge cutbacks in family programs? Is he prepared to admit that he has broken the Prime Minister's promise not to reduce budgets for social programs in order to reduce the deficit?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, what we have set out to do in this Budget is set the Government on a track toward getting control of the massive debt problem which is a burden on all Canadians. It is very important that Canadians recognize that there is a broad attack taking place, and that everyone has been asked to share some of the load. There is to be a tax on the capital of banks, and a surtax on corporations.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If Hon. Members opposite would just relax a little, I would continue.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Obviously they do not want to listen.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

STATEMENTS MADE BY SOLICITOR GENERAL—REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Prime Minister

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reprimanded the Solicitor General for taking sides in the Coates case, and less than five minutes after that the Solicitor General told the media outside the House that he did not regret having spoken out as he did. Last winter, after the clandestine Hatfield meeting was revealed, the Prime Minister was also critical of the Solicitor General, saying that such a meeting would not have been held in a perfect world. However, the Solicitor General said that he would hold such a meeting again. Both acts were highly offensive to the administration of justice or, to use the Prime Minister's own words, they were fundamentally inappropriate.

Given that we have a Solicitor General who has a perverse lack of appreciation not only of the responsibilities of his office but of his duty to the Prime Minister—

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Kaplan: Here is the question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Kaplan: Given all of that, is it not time for the Prime Minister to appoint a new Solicitor General?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I appointed a new Solicitor General because we did not want one who would go out and authorize the payment of \$100,000 to a killer in British Columbia. People have had it up to the ears with that kind of stuff.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mulroney: The Solicitor General is an extremely honourable man, and I think that the former Solicitor General would be well advised not to indulge in selective quotations from the Solicitor General, because what he said was very clear-cut.

MINISTERIAL BEHAVIOUR

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the record shows very clearly that I did not authorize that payment of \$100,000. The Attorney General of British Columbia authorized that payment.

I would like to deal with the subject at hand. What are the Prime Minister's criteria for disciplining Ministers? The Minister of National Defence has a drink in a bar and is asked to resign, or advised to resign. The Solicitor General engages in conduct which the Prime Minister himself criticizes, and he is allowed to remain in the Cabinet and gets a rose pinned on his lapel by the Prime Minister. What kind of criteria is the Prime Minister using?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I referred to the injunction in regard to the process that was quite properly mentioned by my hon. friend