

the deindexing of personal income tax, and the deindexing of OAS, are all proposals and open for discussion? That is the argument the Minister has just made. He is confusing the situation much more and is causing increasing anxiety for senior citizens.

Will he now make up his mind whether it is a Budget or a White Paper on tax changes that is before the House? He had better clear the air because senior citizens do not deserve the anxiety, heartache, and uncertainty that he and his colleagues are inflicting upon them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer that I gave to the first question applies to this one. In the preamble to this question he tried to—

Mr. Tobin: The whole Budget is open for discussion. That's what you're saying.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Your question was too long. Keep quiet for a while.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): He tried to tie taxation in with changes on the OAS as legislative initiatives. The first answer which I gave him was correct and applies to the second question as well.

* * *

THE BUDGET

GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. On budget night the Minister of Finance stood up and went on and on about how fair and just this Budget was for Canadians. We have learned from *The Globe and Mail* that the Government's own documents indicated that that was not the case and that in fact the Budget was biased in favour of the wealthy, and was particularly going to hit the poor and middle income earners of Canada. The Minister of Finance lied to the people of Canada in that particular statement.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Riis: I am asking the Deputy Prime Minister to table those reports now.

Some Hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If I understood correctly, I believe the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap accused the Prime Minister of having lied.

Mr. Broadbent: No, the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If that is not what the Member said, I shall take his word for it and read the "blues", but that was my understanding of what he said.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I certainly did not accuse the Prime Minister of lying. If I accused the Minister of Finance of lying I will retract that statement, but I will say that I am probably the only person in Canada who believes him.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Riis: *The Globe and Mail* has indicated that the Government's own studies indicated that this was a very biased Budget. Since at least there appeared to be a conflict here, will the Deputy Prime Minister now say that these documents will be tabled so that the people of Canada will see what the Minister of Finance knew when he made his statement on budget night?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the article that the Hon. Member refers to quotes a number of statistics applying to 1990. I personally do not know the origin of these statistics, but having worked in economics for a long time I know that projections for 1990 must be based on a lot of assumptions.

Mr. Broadbent: What about 1983?

Mr. de Cotret: To answer that in terms of 1986 I will give you the numbers contained in the Budget Papers. In 1986 someone with an income level of \$20,000 would see a tax increase of \$104. Someone with an income level of \$200,000 would see an increase of close to \$5,000. Therefore, for a ten-fold increase in income there would be a fifty-fold increase in taxes. I do not believe that is taxing the poor more than the rich.

MONITORING OF ECONOMY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In that last response I think the Government was saying that it has confidence in the Budget and that the economy will in fact improve.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: I take it from the applause, Mr. Speaker, that the Government benches are in agreement with that. The Prime Minister has indicated that he is going to monitor the situation carefully. If the Prime Minister and the Government have confidence in the Budget and in what they are doing, they must have confidence that things are going to improve, and there is therefore no need to monitor the situation any longer. Let us stop the deindexation for pensioners right now. Let them relax for the summer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!