

**Mr. Ouellet:** Come on.

**Mr. Mulroney:** As a result of that, the course upon which we have embarked will be followed because we believe that, as the OECD reported yesterday, the Government of Canada is doing better than any other of the OECD countries with few exceptions.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I know my right hon. friend would wish us well in the pursuit of jobs and justice for Canadians.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BILL C-70

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister, it is the holiday season and therefore a time when we should express our generosity, not just in words but also by our actions. Everyone in Canada will be exchanging gifts at Christmas and New Year's. We have here representatives from all the groups that are asking you . . . I am not just speaking for the Opposition but for all these people, religious leaders, family agencies and women, who are all asking whether you would have the generosity to announce immediately the withdrawal of Bill C-70, for the sake of all the children across this country.

[*English*]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as has been said many times in the House, there is an increase in the child tax credit which makes up for any changes in the family allowance.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Scrooge.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** As Members know, there will also be an increase in the family allowance as of January 1 rather than the decrease which they have been speaking of in the country.

**Ms. Mitchell:** That's inaccurate.

**Mr. Heap:** You know that's not true.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):** Additionally, Bill C-70 follows the principle of directing the money in social policies to those in greatest need. That principle remains.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY IF PRIME MINISTER WILLING TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN GROUPS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister, why has your office

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refused to let you meet all our religious leaders and the family agencies who have a very important matter to discuss with you? Would the Prime Minister be prepared to meet them outside the House?

[*English*]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Government has been meeting with various groups, not only in relation to Bill C-70. The Minister of Finance and I have recently been meeting with social reform groups and considering further issues. Those meetings will continue. The Member should keep in mind that Ministers of the Government have been meeting with these groups and will continue to do so. If he looks at the record he will find that that is the case.

INQUIRY IF PRIME MINISTER DISPOSED TO DISCUSS GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO REDUCE FAMILY ALLOWANCES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I want to begin my questioning by joining the Prime Minister and the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition in wishing, on behalf of my colleagues, all Members opposite a joyful personal year in the months ahead.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** What about us?

**Mr. Broadbent:** And with respect to the Party to my right, figuratively speaking, I say without qualification that I wish it and all its members and their families, in their personal lives, an enjoyable new year.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** I even extend that, without qualification, with total generosity as the Prime Minister might say, to all the men and women up there in that Gallery.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Expect Mike Duffy.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Now, to get back to Scrooge—

[*Translation*]

—I have a question about the Government's decision to reduce family allowances. Here in Ottawa, we have a coalition representing a large number of Canadians from all regions, and it wants to meet today with the Prime Minister. My question is directed to the Prime Minister: Will he accept this invitation? Would he be prepared to discuss with Canadians the Government's decision to reduce family allowances?

[*English*]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, that discussion has been taking place. It has taken place on the Budget, on the Bill, in the Legislative Committee, and again when the Bill came back. It has been taking place with members of the Government and members of