

Government Orders

Mr. Allmand: You do not have to apply for it.

Mrs. Marleau: That is right, you do not have to apply for it. Give it to some charity, they might appreciate it. But just because you do not want the family allowance does not mean that there are many families out there who do not really rely on that. That particular program is a very small amount of money that this government gives towards families, towards the children of our country.

Mr. Belsher: It costs a lot of money.

Mrs. Marleau: It may cost some money, but it is certainly worth while. By all means tax it back, but tax it back fairly, at whatever rate you tax everybody else.

• (1600)

If the members across the way were to make a windfall profit somewhere, by all means, tax it. But how would they feel if suddenly they had it all taken away?

How about if you get some kind of a pension because of a disability? How would you feel if suddenly the government came in and said: "Well, you make more than this amount of money, so because this is a special pension, we will take it all away from you. But it is okay to go and make money on the stock market. Sure, we will only take 30 per cent of that away. That is okay. But 100 per cent for that pension". That is what is wrong.

I ask the government to not only reconsider this very seriously but to add some incentives, something, some ray of light, so families can have a proper level of living and can have some hope in this country.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce—Employment; the hon. member for Ottawa West—Pay Equity; the hon. member for Edmonton East—Indian Affairs.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

INCOME TAX ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-28, an act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, the Old Age Security Act, the Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and a related Act, as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee, and Motions Nos. 4, 6 and 7.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Madam Speaker, my first inclination, as is befitting what one would call an expression of mourning, would be to stand here for my 10 minutes in absolute silence. I would do that not out of respect for the other members of the House, but as a sincere gesture toward those people who are having their family allowances and their pensions clawed back.

I am not too sure where the best place is to start my remarks, but since we are talking about the clawback, maybe that would be the place to do it. I cannot imagine a more fitting term for this government to originate for what it is doing. There is an element of the scavenger. There is an element of the vicious claw. What a descriptive term. Claw back. Let us take away from those people the little money that we are giving them. What a descriptive term for a despicable government.

I experienced seven months of what this government did to the people with unemployment insurance and this clawback is absolutely in character for the government. I do not know whether it is the result of lack of imagination or the result of too much imagination.

When dealing with cheaters on unemployment insurance, they are absolutely efficient in tracking down some poor person on unemployment insurance, some single mother with a couple of kids trying to put a little bit of food on her table or maybe shoelaces on the kids' shoes. They can track her down when she earns a penny more