

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, December 16, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

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Prayers

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## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

### SENIOR CITIZENS

OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENT TO LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO DEMANDS

**Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I support the position taken by the coalition including the *Fédération de l'âge d'or du Québec*, the *Forum des personnes âgées de Montréal*, the Golden Age and the *Association québécoise pour la défense des retraités*, all of which favour a truly progressive taxation system under which corporations and the wealthy will pay their fair share. They want the Government to maintain the investment income deduction of \$1,000, which means that the first \$1,000 is not taxable. They also want full indexation of our personal income tax system so that tax credits and deductions increase with the cost of living.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) should listen carefully to the demands being made by these organizations and by all senior citizens who come to see us regularly at our constituency offices to complain about financial pressures and who want the Minister of Finance to pay special attention to their demands.

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● (1405)

[English]

### FINANCE

EXTENSION OF NORTHERN TRAVEL TAX BENEFITS

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, the communique issued on December 10 by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) is good news for northerners who had been concerned about the narrow application of the tax rules applied to northern travel benefits.

Under the new rules tax benefits will be extended to trips for all destinations, including those in the North, thereby allowing northerners to take their holidays in the North should they so wish.

The maximum deduction, of course, still is tied to the cost of travel to the designated southern point. Northerners will wish to thank the Minister for listening to their problems and developing workable solutions.

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### MULTICULTURALISM

CALL FOR NEW ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, an effective policy of multiculturalism requires an effective program to improve race relations in Canada. The present Conservative Government has been tragically weak in this area.

The Race Relations Directorate has been allowed to deteriorate to the extent that it includes only an acting director and one program officer. Such a limited staff, which makes the title "director" a bitter joke, is quite incapable of mounting the programs that this country needs.

Is that the reason the program promised last March by the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) to fight fear, bigotry, and racism among Canadians has not yet been announced? The Minister promised an aggressive federal public education campaign for this fall. Where is it?

The Minister spoke truly when he declared: "You only beat racism, discrimination and prejudice by defeating the ignorance and stupidity from which they spring". When does the Government expect to act on that fine declaration?

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### LABOUR RELATIONS

AIR CANADA—SETTLEMENT OF STRIKE

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, this morning's reports that Air Canada and its 8,500 ground workers have come to an agreement is one Christmas gift for which all Canadians can be thankful.