

*Family Allowances Act, 1973*

the Chair to interpret the agreement that was reached during Question Period today between the Minister of Justice (Mr. MacGuigan) and the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn).

I concern myself very much with the point made by the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). I think it would put the Chair in the position of being the interpreter of an agreement that occurred in the House and, quite obviously, because there is disagreement now, the Chair is not well advised to try to put new clauses into an agreement that has been reached.

I do have, I believe, in the name of the Speaker, the authority to order a document printed, but I am very loth to do that because, again, the agreement which took place in the House seems to have some limitations on it.

My hope is that the offer made by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) might be accepted by the House for a few moments, and that he might be able to resolve the problem on an organizational and practical level.

If it cannot get resolved that way and if some Hon. Member wants to rise to put forward a motion, of course the Chair will recognize the Hon. Member for that purpose. In that case, if I may, I will recognize the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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**FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACT, 1973****MEASURE TO LIMIT INDEXATION**

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-132, an Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs; and the motion of Mr. Hawkes (p. 21697).

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, we were discussing Bill C-132 and more specifically an amendment put forward by the Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes). Because the Member for Calgary West is so confused about the facts, he is conveying grossly misleading and false impressions to the House and to the Canadian public and I think these must be corrected. I say that maybe for the first time in ten years since I have been elected to this House, it is difficult for me to understand that a Member with a PhD, who has worked in the field of social sciences, would misread the Bill so grossly, but I will take the time to explain to him what this Bill is all about. Of course, I will have to invite all Members to vote against the amendment of the Member for Calgary West, because it would defeat the purpose of the very objective of the Government, which is to reduce inflation, to cut it by half.

Among other things, the Hon. Member repeated very, very often that the Bill by which we will limit the indexation to 6

per cent, and to 5 per cent the year after, for Family Allowance recipients who do not need the Child Tax Credit will affect the poor in the country. It is totally misleading and really I would like to be able to use a stronger word to say how wrong it is for him to dare say things like that.

The Bill, of course, is part of a package, and the other Bill, C-139, its complement says very clearly that all Canadian mothers who receive Child Tax Credit, even a part of the Child Tax Credit, even a dollar, of a Child Tax Credit which means that they are at the very end of the scale for those who qualify, they may have a family income of \$40,000 a year, will receive not 6 per cent but full indexation in this coming year, in their next month's cheque.

*[Translation]*

This means, for instance, and I want to stress this point, that any Canadian mother, if she has only one child and if her family, that is she and her husband have earned \$26,330 in 1982, or any mother who falls in that category or any mother who has more than one child and whose income is over and above that amount will be entitled to a child tax credit or a partial credit which will be increased by \$50 for each child to compensate for our small cut in the indexation.

• (1440)

*[English]*

Today's *Hansard* has not yet been printed, but I took notes when the Hon. Member was talking. He stated that the number of those people living at or near the poverty line and the number of welfare cases would increase. He repeated often the incredible phrase that this Bill takes food away from the bellies of children. The Hon. Member comes from a rich Province and probably the wealthiest city in Canada, Calgary. The Hon. Member surely is joking when he says that someone with one child earning \$26,330 a year, the maximum at which people receive the full Child Tax Credit, is living at the poverty line. There will be a reduction of \$1.40 a month on their cheque. For a person earning more than \$26,000 a year, how can anyone who is honest suggest that it is taking food away from their table? That and other stupidities are what we have had to listen to.

This matter is very serious. I want families to understand what is going on. After having listened to the Hon. Member for Calgary West, Canadians will wonder what is happening. What will happen is this. Of the 3.6 million mothers in Canada who receive Family Allowance, two-thirds, or 2.4 million of them, those in low or middle-income families, next year will receive the fully indexed value of the Family Allowance and Child Tax Credit. I want to assure everyone in the House of that as it is very important. This is a very generous Bill.

**Mr. Hawkes:** What about 1984?

**Miss Bégin:** The same is true for 1984. In each of these two years they will get the full value of the fully indexed Family Allowance and Child Tax Credit. I repeat, that will go to two-thirds, or 2.4 million mothers.