

Mr. Speaker, regarding the tax on medication, the Prime Minister knows perfectly well, although Progressive Conservative Members may not be aware of this, that the "family pharmacy" is now taxed. Arthritis sufferers need liniment and buffered aspirin.

The Government said it would tax that because it is not important. I would like to give you some figures. How many youths under age 15 suffer from arthritis and whose parents are faced with additional expenses just to pay the 10 per cent tax?

An Hon. Member: There is no tax.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, a Progressive Conservative Member claims there is no tax. Read the press release. He does not know anything, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea which riding he comes from, we have never heard of it.

Mr. Speaker, 3.2 million Canadians suffer from arthritis, including 600,000 in Québec. Some 30,000 young Canadians under age 15 suffer from arthritis and must use pain relieving drugs on a regular basis, yet this Government and this Prime Minister of Iron Ore fame have chosen to levy a tax on sick Canadians. Who are the biggest consumers of cough syrups, congestion relieving drugs, dressings and band-aids in Canada? Families with children. Here again this heartless Government has seen fit to launch a frontal attack against families with children. I see the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Côté) indicating it is not so. He has stood up for millionaires, he has decided he came here to protect millionaires, and that is his right. Well, Mr. Speaker, I for one, thought I would come here to champion the cause of poor and middle income Canadians.

Mr. Bissonnette: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Minister of State (Small Businesses) on a point or order.

Mr. Bissonnette: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) wants to rake me over the coals, but he has precious little to say. This is just another opportunity for him to speak nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not think that was a point of order. The Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) may continue.

Mr. Malépart: He does not know anything, except perhaps in the field of structural beams, and that is just about it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to prove that the Government, the Prime Minister and most Members on the other side of the House have misled the population. They did admit to misleading the elderly, so they apologized for that, they did admit to misleading the sick, so again they apologized for that, and

Family Allowances Act

once again we will do everything we can to force them to apologize for misleading families with children.

The November 5th Speech from the Throne was a Progressive Conservative document in which the Prime Minister had the Governor General say this about social justice:

My Government has as a high priority measures to support and strengthen the Canadian family, which is the cornerstone of our society.

The Government slashes \$55 million off income support programs then throws that money down the drain—\$56 million—to change the colour of military uniforms. That is one of the measures endorsed by the Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Côté), the Minister of State for Small Businesses. That was the option of all Quebec Conservative Members, \$56 million to switch colours at the expense of families with children, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Lac-Saint-Jean (Mr. Côté) on a point of order.

Mr. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean): I should like to make a correction, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Lac-Saint-Jean is not Minister of State for Small Businesses.

An Hon. Member: Nor will he ever be!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I continue. There is a conflict, and it is a very nice start for the Conservatives.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) has been nicknamed the Minister of Social Injustice. It is the first time in the history of our country that the person in charge of that department has fully endorsed the interests of the multinationals and the rich at the expense of the poor, Mr. Speaker.

For the information of Progressive Conservative members who know how to read, I should like to quote a statement which the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) made on November 15, 1984, as reported on page 277:

It is the family and commitment to community which guarantee stability in our social fabric.

That is the Minister of Social Injustice speaking.

It is my role as Minister of National Health and Welfare to put forward signals and initiatives which will strengthen the role of the family and give it more permanence in society than I feel it has been given before.

He has succeeded, Mr. Speaker, he has cut \$50 million from the assistance programs aimed at helping them. Here is another proof, Mr. Speaker. This consultation paper entitled *Child and Elderly Benefits* has a blue cover and was published by the Progressive Conservatives under the authority of Jake Epp, Minister of Social Injustice.