

the tax policies of the Government, the people of Canada are getting tired of the kind of hypocrisy we just heard from him.

AMOUNT OF BENEFIT INCREASE FOR PENSIONERS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question follows immediately from what the Minister just said. He said he increased the pension benefits for those who are getting the GIS. The Minister knows that there are 750,000 poor pensioners in Canada. He is giving them a \$1.66 per day increase. Considering this, and in terms of the private pension change available primarily to the rich, why did he provide a benefit scheme that would give the rich \$20 and something per day, compared to \$1.66 per day for the poor? Why is it that the poor get so little and the rich so much? Is the rich vote worth 20 times the amount that a poor vote is worth?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind my friend that what we are doing in support of the senior citizens is the implementation of recommendations coming from all kinds of groups interested in social services and in welfare, as well as other organizations, that is, ensuring that those who are single recipients of Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement will receive 60 per cent of the amount of money available to couples. In effect, as the Hon. Member knows, what we propose is going to bring these people over 60 per cent of what is available to couples. This is going to take effect immediately.

As far as the other measures are concerned, as I have indicated to the Hon. Member, what we are proposing under the Tax Assistance Plan for pension reform is to make access to the pension scheme equivalent, whether you are an independent professional, farmer, businessman, or whether you happen to work for a firm. That access is given equally to all, and that is fair between people in similar situations.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, once again the Minister talked about fairness. He talked about it last night, and he talked about it before. He goes on about recovery and fairness.

TAX LOOPHOLES AVAILABLE TO RICH

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, considering that even after this Budget people at the poverty level will continue to pay taxes, and that after this Budget pensioners will continue to pay taxes, why is it that we have a tax system so riddled with more than 200 loopholes that a man or a woman earning \$200,000 can get away without paying one penny in tax? When are we going to have a fair kind of recovery in which all Canadians share the benefit?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I want to—

Oral Questions

[*English*]

Mr. Broadbent: Oh, you switched to French.

Mr. Lalonde: What have you got against French? I thought French was the official language of this country as well as English. What have you got against French?

[*Translation*]

—I will speak French when I feel like it!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: I know the Hon. Member and I am aware of his interest in and dedication for bilingualism. I should like to think that it was just his angry reaction on the spur of the moment. I will answer the question.

Now then, with respect to the question raised by the Hon. Member, I would like to remind him that Canadian pensioners benefit from a plan which compares favourably with that of any other industrialized country—more generous in fact than those of most industrialized countries.

In addition, the tax benefits granted to the elderly are considerably higher than those of people under 65. The Hon. Member is aware of that as well. Of course, some pensioners do pay income tax, but that is because they earn a fairly good income. Similarly, people under 65 who declare good incomes have to pay taxes.

Concerning the specific cases to which the Hon. Member might want to refer, they have been mentioned in previous question periods. He knows the tax regulations, people have to pay taxes on the income they earn, in accordance with well known regulations of the Income Tax Act which has been adopted by Parliament.

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[*English*]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Speaker: May I call the attention of the House to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of the Hon. Du-wan Pong, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

AUTHOR OF REQUEST FOR TITLE SEARCH OF OPPOSITION
LEADER'S RESIDENCE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. He will know that an employee of his Office—the Office which, without ques-