

papers. That is the information that I have and it is available to him now.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government confirm the figures given by the National Council of Welfare or if he cannot confirm them now, would he have them studied by his able staff, and let us know if it is true that a single pensioner now receives \$7,310 a year and that this single pensioner between now and 1991—

**Senator Flynn:** The year 2050.

**Senator Gigantès:** —will lose \$1,604 of purchasing power from this sum, and from what these pensioners are expected to cut these sums?

**Senator Flynn:** That is stupid.

**Senator Roblin:** Honourable senators, I have seen several calculations as to the effects on old age pensioners and all of them are different. I have no intention of confirming or denying the figures given by my honourable friend. They are the responsibility of the organization that put them together, and he can speak to them about their validity.

**Senator Frith:** You wouldn't want to clarify the conclusion anyway.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government care to comment on the anxiety expressed by maritime premiers and by the Premier of Quebec and by the National Assembly of Quebec about the very adverse impact of the budgetary measures not only on pensioners but also on everybody else with an annual income of \$30,000 and under?

**Senator Roblin:** The views of the premiers was the subject of a question raised yesterday. I answered it yesterday and I think that that answer should stand.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the Leader of the Government care to comment on recommendations by various business associations, including the Business Council on National Issues, that money that is going to be taken away from the pensioners by the government could be found elsewhere? Could he inform us whether these business councils, in making these recommendations to a government they support, have volunteered to give up some of the tax advantages they have received in this budget for the sake of the poor?

**Senator Flynn:** Oh, my God!

**Senator Roblin:** I know my honourable friend does not expect me to comment on newspaper reports of that kind. However, I must say that I find his last suggestion one of considerable interest.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government kindly undertake to inquire of his colleagues in the cabinet whether they are prepared to reduce the allowable RRSP deductions given to people who can afford such deductions in order to compensate at least the poor among pensioners for the amount of money that the Treasury is raiding from their incomes between now and 1991?

[Senator Roblin.]

**Senator Roblin:** Of course, I do not agree with the premise of the question at all because it is a subject for debate. We have been advised by one of our colleagues here to try to shorten our proceedings and I will give you a short answer: No.

**Senator Gigantès:** Will the honourable Leader of the Government kindly inquire of his colleagues whether there has been any offer by the multinational oil companies to give up one-tenth of the windfalls they are receiving in tax cuts, since this one-tenth would cover the \$860 million that Mr. Epp says it would cost to double index the Guaranteed Income Supplement for those pensioners who do receive it?

**Senator Roblin:** If my honourable friend wants to debate the National Energy Policy all over again, he is welcome to do so. If that is the essence of his question, I decline to make any further answer to it.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government let us know whether, among the other considerations that are being hinted at everywhere, the restoration of the cut of \$100 federal tax deduction—

**Senator Flynn:** You're boring!

**Senator Gigantès:** —for people receiving \$30,000 or less is going to be reconsidered by his cabinet or is being discussed at all?

**Senator Roblin:** If it were being discussed by the cabinet, I would not be in a position to tell my honourable friend about it until some decision had been reached.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable Leader of the Government tell us that in view—

**Senator Flynn:** You're boring!

**Senator Frith:** Then leave, if you're bored. We'll let you know when Senator Gigantès has finished asking his questions.

**Senator Flynn:** That is what I am going to do right now. Your Honour, I'm sorry but I'm leaving because I'm bored.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Senator Perrault:** If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.

**Senator Flynn:** And you're going to be bored, too!

**Senator Frith:** It's a pretty hot kitchen. You had better get out.

**Senator Gigantès:** Honourable senators, I wish to tell Senator Flynn as he is leaving the chamber that I have for him as much esteem as he has for me. I will not go so far as to say that I have as much esteem for him as the Prime Minister has for this chamber and its members, even those he has recently appointed himself.

**Senator Frith:** One down and twenty-four to go.

**Senator Gigantès:** Would the honourable leader, in view of the general outcry at the \$500,000 capital gains tax exemption, undertake to express to his cabinet colleagues the concern of many honourable senators that this tax exemption is not