

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): There will be full protection against inflation for those in need—people who are receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement. There will be modified protection for those who are above that, who have more money. We have said that there will be a very potent form of insurance for those people, that if inflation rises higher than 3 per cent they will receive some protection. But I underline the fact that the OAS will not be reduced. It will be increased over the years if inflation is greater than 3 per cent.

REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTIONS BE TABLED

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. When it comes to imposing new taxes, cutting programs, or giving benefits to the rich, his Budget was clear, detailed, and immediate; as it was with the granting of \$125,000 capital gains tax cut to those who are selling their yachts, diamonds, and paintings, or when he cut \$78 million from high skilled job training this year. But when it comes to job creation his Budget is vague, obscure, and hypothetical. He is asking Canadians to pay for the Western Energy Accord now with high taxes, and he is offering them pie in the sky in the future with respect to job creation.

Will the Minister immediately table in the House the projections of his Department with respect to the job losses which will result from the Budget? Will he be as clear-cut with the Canadian people on job losses as he is with taxes?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Budget is about jobs. It will create jobs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): It is also a clear break from the past. The Hon. Member is looking for that little security blanket that tells him that something will happen because the computer says it will happen. Let me remind him that the 50,000 to 100,000 jobs which his Leader said would be lost as a result of the November 8 statement, turned into a very large number of jobs being created. I believe about 143,000 jobs have been created since then, and 200,000 jobs have been created since this Government took office. This demonstrates to me that the Canadian people are responding to the positive and different approach we are taking, and that will continue, reinforced by this Budget.

● (1125)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

JOB CREATION

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

When the Minister removes \$1.2 billion from the Canadian economy with his new taxes and program cutbacks for 1985-

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86, according to a macro-economic analysis, the result will be a loss of between 125,000 and 150,000 jobs, and this does not include, for instance, Public Service cutbacks and the cutbacks in Cape Breton. By what strange logic does the Minister figure that his Budget will increase employment? By how much? And in what occupations? In what regions of this country? Just for once, is the Minister going to be honest with Canadians?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the people said after the November statement, and people are saying today, that we have been honest with the Canadian people. It's all out front. It's all there for them to see.

The Hon. Member is asking for numbers. His Party said in November that there would be 50,000 to 100,000 jobs lost. It was wrong then, and it is going to be wrong again today. Let me remind the Hon. Member that, without the benefit of a computer model, 89,000 jobs were created in the month of April. That is the largest single increase in jobs in five years. That will happen again.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

MINIMUM TAX FOR THE RICH—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. During the election campaign, the Prime Minister promised to introduce a minimum income tax for the rich. In November, in this very House, the Prime Minister again promised us the same tax for the rich. In the Budget, however, the Government has found several new ways of increasing the average family's income tax by \$500. My question to the Prime Minister is as follows: Why was the Government unable to find a single way to introduce a minimum income tax for the rich in this Budget?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the Leader of the New Democratic Party would be congratulating us for introducing, for the first time, a special tax on banks and trust companies—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: —and a special tax on the richest people in our society. In consultation with the provinces, a minimum income tax program has already been announced for the 1986 fiscal year. I think this is already a tremendous step towards achieving equity across the country, and I think that is what comes across in the Budget speech.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister knows that what the Government took away with one hand from the banks, it gave back with the other hand. But we will get to that in the debate later on.