

used throughout Canada, in each and every riding, but it has been cut back to the tune of \$29 million. Quebec was hit harder than any other province by that cut-back—35.74 per cent less for Quebec, only 9.5 per cent less for Ontario. One of these days some Members—and the Prime Minister first—will have to face the music. He will have to stop showing off and find answers to hard questions.

Here are some newspaper headlines: “Social Housing an Urgent Priority”, “Federal Rehabilitation Aid Must Be Maintained”. There are thousands of people throughout Canada—particularly in the Montreal and Quebec City areas—who are waiting for the Minister responsible for the CMHC to decide whether the RRAP program will be funded to build co-operative housing. Hundreds of projects are still on the drawing board, but they will never see the light of day if they decide to cancel this co-operative housing program. As a result of such a decision, co-operative housing will disappear in Canada, especially in Quebec where it is very popular. In addition, any social housing project carried out as cooperative housing will no longer be within the means of low and average income families, so they will be built strictly for richer people.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that with respect to this matter all Hon. Members in this House will urge the Minister in charge of CMHC to maintain the RRSP program in connection with co-operative housing.

Mr. Speaker, I came here prepared for a 20-minute speech, and I hope to get questions from Members opposite. This may be the only way to get them to rise so that people may come to know them a little. But I will conclude my remarks and let my colleague make his speech. I would simply say that on another important matter, there is still time to do something for all those Canadians, the 80,000 single, separated or divorced Canadians. This will not pass in committee—

Mr. Bernier: Oh! Oh!

Mr. Malépart: The Hon. Member for Beauce (Mr. Bernier) does not know a thing about anything, he sounds silly when he says that. He does not even know how that works. He should enquire, and put pressure on his Minister in order that an amendment be introduced in committee, in May, to prevent discrimination. I am sure that even though the Hon. Member for Beauce likes to pitch insults through his hat, he himself agrees on that. But if he does not, I will send him the names of senior citizens who will be penalized by his decision. In the future, he will get to know what he is voting for.

● (1720)

[English]

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy hearing my hon. rotund friend speak in the House. He always adds a little colour to the goings on here. I do not think there is any question in this House that Quebec in fact has and is playing its part and, I might say, contributing its fair share, in getting

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Canada's fiscal house in order. But if all of these wonderful programs that the Hon. Member time and again stands up and talks about were so great, would he tell us why the people of Quebec so thoroughly repudiated the Liberal Government in the last election?

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, usually the Hon. Member does a much better job with his questions. I am afraid this one shows some lack of judgment. The programs were in place before the elections. Tory members from Quebec, and the Prime Minister himself promised to do more. But those members would not be here if the Prime Minister had told the people the truth, if he had told them that those programs would be cut. That was the result of the last elections.

[English]

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member talks about truth. He was around in 1981, as I was, when his Party stood up and thoroughly condemned the then Government of the day for daring to suggest that it put a three-cents a litre tax on gasoline, and then when that Party was in government it proceeded to put 45 cents a gallon tax on gasoline in the next three years. If that Party is talking about telling the truth to the Canadian people, I wish my hon. rotund friend would level with them.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I therefore withdraw what I said. I thought he was a bright member, but he does not recall any difference between the tax and the oil price. The problem with the then Minister of Finance is not just the 18 cents a litre, increase, but what the Liberals opposed... I see the Hon. Member for Montreal-Mercier (Ms. Jacques). Congratulations on returning from your trip. The people in your constituency are looking for you.

What I am telling the Hon. Member has to do with the 18 cents tax which we fought against. Never did the Liberals force any 18 cents tax on gas upon Quebecers and other Canadians. The Hon. Member recalls that Premier Bill Davis, a Conservative, if I am not mistaken, was against such a measure introduced by the then Progressive Conservative Government, and Quebec's Premier, René Lévesque, who certainly is no Liberal but has a chance of becoming one if you insist on doing him in with your transfer payments, also disagreed with your decision at that time.

[English]

Mr. McDermid: The Hon. Member is exactly right, Mr. Speaker. The Premier of Ontario was opposed to that tax, but I can tell him as well that the Premier of Ontario was opposed to the 46-cents a gallon taxes—not price increase—that was placed by the Liberal Government on the price of gasoline at the pumps over the next three years. I might add that on June 1, a great number of those taxes, I am pleased to say, will be coming off and this will be reflected at the pumps.