

state indexation of Old Age Security pensions to the real cost of living on a quarterly basis". He did not keep his promise. As a result, Old Age Security benefits will be de-indexed in such a way that they will no longer be fully protected against inflation. Benefits will not be adjusted to absorb the impact of the first 3 per cent of inflation. That is what the Prime Minister calls a Budget that is "tough but fair". It is tough, but it certainly is not fair. Tough for whom? Fair to whom? We may well ask.

No Government measure has as much impact on the lives of Canadian men and women as a Budget. Nothing better illustrates a Government's sense of equity and the extent of wealth distribution within our society. A Budget is the best example of the kind of society a Government is trying to achieve; it shows the program the Government has in mind and where the tax revenues will come from. A Budget also reveals the soul of a Government. This Budget tells us that the Conservatives have no soul. It is a hard and unfair Budget, and ordinary Canadians alone will bear the brunt of it.

When dealing with ordinary Canadians, the Government can only take something away from them. However, when it deals with major companies, it takes a little with one hand and gives a lot more with the other hand. By 1990-91, the Government will have levied the equivalent of \$4.1 billion in additional taxes on personal incomes and \$2.6 billion in consumer taxes, while over the same time the corporate tax load will have decreased by \$2.2 billion. The Government therefore takes drastic measures against ordinary people and makes ever more generous concessions to the corporate sector. The saddest part of the story is that the Budget penalizes the most vulnerable people in our society—the unemployed, the poor families, native people, women, youths, farmers and the elderly. At the same time, rich and well-to-do Canadians as well as big companies get more than before. This is how the Conservative Party sees fairness: less for the needy and more for the rich. And if I may quote from the Holy Bible in English, since that is how I learned it:

[English]

"Taking from those that have not, to give to those that have. From those that have not will be taken that which they have."

[Translation]

The Conservative Government was given a mandate to create jobs and implement a fair tax system. Yet it gave Canada's men and women a Budget which says nothing about jobs and makes unfairness even worse. Nothing better illustrates such inequity than the despicable way the Conservatives are treating retired Canadians. Every elderly person will be affected by the Budget. As a result of deindexation, old age security pensions will go down 3 per cent every year.

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Deindexation will have a devastating impact on the standard of living of all elderly Canadians, men and women alike, and

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that includes our parents and grandparents. The annual decrease in the amount of every old age security cheque—and these figures bear repeating—the reduction in the amount of the cheque of every retired Canadian will be \$100 next year, \$205 in 1987, \$315 in 1988, \$431 in 1989, \$553 in 1990, and \$680 in 1991. That year the Progressive Conservative Government will be able to save \$2 billion at the expense of senior citizens.

The Government is taking money out of an already hard pressed pension system, a system which prevents elderly men and women from living their last years in dignity. The Government is reaching into the pockets of old Canadians, yet roughly 1.8 million of them live below the poverty line as it is. Thus the Government is forcing the poorest of our senior citizens to make do with even less.

Another consequence of pension deindexation is that the income of elderly Canadian men and women will be eaten away by inflation. Deindexation means that senior citizens can no longer look forward to a decent retirement income. It is a contemptible attack against the youths of the depression years, against those people who grew up through the economic crisis, who became adults during the war and who did so much for our economic welfare. Better still, it is to them that we owe the type of affluent society in which we live today. How can anyone deny them the right to retire in dignity?

Elderly people have done more than their share. The Right Hon. the Prime Minister maintains that the Budget rewards those who get up half an hour earlier. It is a bad joke. It is a mean joke for those who worked very hard throughout life.

The Right Hon. the Prime Minister has a rather peculiar notion of equity. As he had promised during the election campaign, he does give more to the big oil companies, but he forgot all about his commitments to the elderly. Last summer the Right Hon. the Prime Minister promised that full pension indexation would be restored as of January 1, 1985. It is a glaring injustice on the part of the Right Hon. the Prime Minister towards the elderly.

For the Conservatives, there is one kind of justice for the privileged classes, for the rich, for the big corporations and another kind of justice for the elderly. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) was worried about the lack of rich people in Canada. When he makes that kind of statement, I wish the Minister would reflect on what he is doing to the elderly in this country and I wish he would realize what their situation is.

While the Government is hacking away at Old Age Security pensions, it gives away \$2.4 billion to the oil multinationals. It gives \$600 million to the rich in a form of a capital gains tax exemption. It gives \$235 million to those who are well off by increasing and fully indexing the ceiling on RRSP contributions. It gives \$2.2 billion more to corporations by reducing corporate taxes. After eight months in power, the Government has found dozens of new ways to tax the average taxpayer, but it has failed to introduce a minimum income tax for the rich.