

was the first time today that I heard him speak like a true Liberal, and not as a Conservative.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that he is right when he says that the government must provide assistance to those who need it the most, and that is precisely what the government has done in this budget. It is all a matter of degree. A choice had to be made and we have made it. Obviously if money was no object, if we had no deficit and a healthy margin of operation, we would certainly have helped everybody. However, I want to remind my hon. friend that we are going to provide assistance to those who need it most; for instance, we are going to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for needy senior citizens, and to help older single women who are destitute. As for those between the ages of 55 and 65, they will have to wait until the next budget.

[English]

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the Hon. Member's presentation. I quite enjoyed what he had to say and found it to be a very thoughtful speech. He may consider my question to be unrelated. If he does, I would understand why he would not want to respond. He mentioned time and again the need for a strong and sustained recovery and outlined a number of initiatives he felt the Government had taken to encourage and ensure that that take place.

Can the Member explain why, at a time when recovery is so dearly sought by us all, the Government would consider 1984 to be a year when there would be a reasonably serious increase in taxation of consumers? I refer specifically to sales tax, gasoline extra charges and the increase in income tax rates which calculate out to about \$200 to \$300 on average for each Canadian family. Does the Hon. Member have some observation? Some of us have a difficult time understanding how increasing taxes at this time could do anything but hinder a recovery, generally speaking.

[Translation]

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is clearly referring to tax measures which were included in the previous budget and not in this one, because this last budget does not provide for any immediate tax increase.

The Hon. Member is certainly aware that the Government is eager to encourage a strong and sustained recovery such as that we are witnessing now. A period of expansion will provide new revenues, which will make it possible for the Government to invest more in small and medium-size businesses and therefore create more jobs. Consumer spending will in turn increase, which will allow the Government to reduce the deficit, something Hon. Members opposite are anxious to see.

[English]

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I am anxious to get the Hon. Member's views on the housing industry in his riding, in Montreal and generally across Quebec. We have had some very good reactions from Ontario spokesmen. Mr. Henry Stolp of HUDAC has said:

S.O. 21

These moves will create additional consumer confidence which is definitely needed before we can have a big improvement in sales.

Bill Dixon from the Canadian Real Estate Association has said that it should stimulate the sale of houses. The Hon. Member comes from a riding where there are a lot of new homes and a lot of people interested in home owner issues. Perhaps he would like to reflect generally on the way this mortgage assistance is going to help his riding.

[Translation]

Mr. Deniger: Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased with the measures on mortgages and the incentives to the housing industry.

It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that in a riding like mine, somewhat like yours, there is a large number of houses built every year and there is enough space to build more. Some are built near Montreal where people go to work. Such measures will provide security to young homeowners who will now be assured that they will not lose their home because of a sudden rise in interest rates such as the one experienced at the end of the 1970s. Such measures will allow the construction of thousands of units in the constituency of La Prairie which has already entered a period of rapid growth. Such a budget, Mr. Speaker, will promote in my riding the creation of a large number of jobs and bring wealth and security to people who need it most.

[English]

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have the agreement of Members of the House to call it one o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Herbert): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

MEDICAL CARE

SYSTEM OF FEES PAYABLE TO PHYSICIANS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Mr. Speaker, public statements by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) concerning the new Canada Health Act have caused confusion among Canadians with respect to the health services plan in their respective provinces. At the centre of the controversy is the term "extra billing". Unfortunately, refer-