

## GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** What I am asking of the Prime Minister is not what the Member for Vancouver East may, or may not, have said.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deans:** What I am asking from the Prime Minister is what his Government's intentions are. Is it the intention of his Government to impose additional taxes on the middle income group of Canadian income earners in order to pass some benefit, whatever, to others in society?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of this Government to so manage the public finances in a proper and frugal way as to get more money into the hands of those in our society who need it most. If the NDP will not do it, we will do it on behalf of the ordinary Canadians.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## AIR CANADA

## CLOSURE OF RESERVATION FACILITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport concerning the loss of 43 Air Canada positions from Saskatchewan to the city of Winnipeg, making Saskatchewan the only province west of Quebec not to have an Air Canada reservations centre. Would the Minister investigate the elimination of these jobs, from the perspective of corporate responsibility, the element of fairness to Saskatoon and Regina, and was this decision politically motivated by the previous Government?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I obviously share the concern of the Hon. Member. It is true that Air Canada will be consolidating its reservation facilities into a new building, and there will be some 43 jobs affected in Saskatoon and Regina. However, 21 new jobs will be opened up in Winnipeg. I am advised that all efforts are being made by Air Canada to ensure that there is a smooth and orderly transition, and this in no way diminishes the role of Air Canada in both Saskatoon and Regina. As a matter of fact new services are going to be provided and there will be some expanded facilities in both airports in the not too distant future.

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[Translation]

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

## INCOME EVALUATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister

## Oral Questions

and concerns his promises and the contradictory statements made by his Ministers.

Yesterday, an important member of Cabinet, the Leader of the Government in the Senate, was asked the following question: "Is the question of the means test still open?" He replied: "The question of the means test has never been off the table." Could the Right Hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether this statement reflects his Government's policy or whether this is just another instance of a Minister putting his foot in it?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Government's replies are those I have provided in the House.

[English]

## ELECTION CAMPAIGN PROMISES

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the Prime Minister tell us of the 338 promises that we have, whether 100, 200, or 300 are untrue? Would he come clean with this House and tell us the number that are true? Why can we not have a debate to find out how many of them are true?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are having the promises evaluated by the 600,000 civil servants, identified by the Leader of the Liberal Party.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY

## STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister obviously thinks he is on the *Gong Show*, I will address my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Ms. Mitchell:** According to today's edition of *The Globe and Mail*, we read that the Minister:

—told reporters that the Government already decided to tax back universal benefits selectively but is trying to decide which Canadians will be penalized.

Later on he said that he would favour a general tax system.

Will the Minister consider the feelings, as I know he surely must, of the senior citizens, and the families, and the people near retirement who are out there and who are being affected by the contradictions he is making and the contradictions among the three Ministers who have spoken? What does he think they are feeling?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** First, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should keep in mind the debate that we are having in the House and in which she has engaged in committee and in other places. The Hon. Member