

military uniforms, things like that, it wasted the money that did not help anybody.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Parliamentary Secretary will respond. I would also ask him whether he can guarantee today that an amount equivalent to the \$650 million will still be available to help provide some income for elderly people. Second, whether the Government policy in future will be to replace all existing tax exemptions such as those on investment income and registered retirement savings by tax credits which, in my opinion, would be much fairer all around.

• (1815)

[English]

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by laying to rest the false premise which underlies the Hon. Member's question. The Government does not mislead senior citizens. Rather, it listens attentively to their concerns and acts accordingly. For this reason, we have allowed the splitting of CPP pensions so that they can be paid to both spouses.

In addition, we have raised the registered pension plan and registered retirement pension plan limits to make saving for retirement more equitable and more attractive. As well, we extended eligibility for spouses' allowance to widows and widowers.

This same concern for the well-being of older Canadians has motivated our work on tax reform. While it would clearly be inappropriate for me to lay out in detail the elements of tax reform which will affect elderly Canadians, tax reform has been guided by certain principles. These principles have been articulated by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on several occasions.

Most notably, in his budget speech last February he noted that tax reform would be aimed at lower personal income taxes and significantly fewer tax brackets. He also noted that he was considering the conversion of personal exemptions to credits. Such a conversion would provide more assistance to lower income taxpayers, many of whom are elderly.

This would be fully consistent with the Government's intention to reform the system of social transfers and related tax provisions. The review of these provisions is aimed at three goals: to maintain universal access to social programs, to improve opportunities for self-reliance, and to provide more assistance to those in need and less to higher income Canadians.

I can assure the Hon. Member that the Government remains fully committed to these goals. They have been kept fully in mind as the tax reform package has been developed. None of them is consistent with the accusation the Hon. Member makes that a reduction in the age exemption is being considered.

Rather than rushing to judgment on the basis of what can only be rumour and hearsay, I respectfully suggest that the

Adjournment Debate

Hon. Member wait patiently, difficult though it might be, for the Minister's announcement on June 18. I can assure the Hon. Member that, given his pessimistic views, he will be pleasantly surprised.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE—PUBLIC FAITH AND CONFIDENCE—REQUEST FOR CHANGES TO PAROLE SYSTEM

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I have ever asked you if you are a reader of *The Toronto Sun*. I can see that you are. Is there anything like *The Toronto Sun* in Montreal, Mr. Speaker? No, I thought not. As you are indicating, Mr. Speaker, there is really nothing like *The Toronto Sun* anywhere. I understand that.

As a reader of *The Toronto Sun*, Mr. Speaker, you will know—and I venture to say that every reader of *The Toronto Sun* will know it—that very few days go by when there is not a report in that newspaper about someone who is out on parole committing some sort of violent crime.

That is a frightening fact. Many people say that *The Toronto Sun* frightens people needlessly and unnecessarily. They say there is no reason for the paper to report that sort of thing because these things are not happening in actual fact as frequently or as often as the paper reports them. You know just as well as I do, Mr. Speaker, that if these things were not happening there would not be anything for newspapers like *The Toronto Sun* to report. Things like violent crimes being committed while people are on parole are happening at quite a regular rate. That is frightening for the public, it is frightening for you, Mr. Speaker—I know that—and it is frightening for me.

• (1820)

One story I saw recently frightened me even more than many of these stories about violent crime being committed by people on parole. It was a story allegedly attributable to Mr. Ole Ingstrup. You know who Mr. Ole Ingstrup is, Mr. Speaker. He is a former senior official in the Danish correction service who is now the chairman of our National Parole Board. Mr. Ingstrup was quoted in the press as saying that he was very enthusiastic about the list of criteria which the National Parole Board was preparing to be used in granting parole. He went on to say that "We have not in the past had any kind of relatively clear criteria for granting parole in this country". That is a shocking statement.

I can see by your face, Mr. Speaker, that you are just as shocked as I am when the chairman of the National Parole Board of Canada tells us that the Board does not have any clear idea why it is letting people out on parole. It is no wonder you and I and the public have our confidence shaken in the parole system. It is no wonder at the same time that we have our confidence shaken in the criminal justice system itself. It goes a long way in explaining why recently our own Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) said that Canadians in general have lost confidence in the criminal justice system and why the Attorney General of Ontario shortly after the Minister of