

understand that. If they cannot understand that, it is because they have never bothered to seek the advice of the Canadian provinces, to respect the Canadian people who have elected them.

• (2000)

And today, because they are sitting in the Opposition and getting what they deserve, Mr. Speaker, they claim that Canadians will forget in five minutes or within four years all the economic prejudice they have caused them. No, Mr. Speaker. That is not possible, and we will be there to tell them so two or two and a half years down the road, and you may rest assured, Mr. Speaker, that we will be doing a clean and fair job and when Canadians are called upon to judge this Government's economic performance, the four years in Government during which we will have put the economy back on the tracks, sent hundreds of thousands of Canadians back to work, regained our rightful place on the international scene, lead this country recognized as an economically strong nation, a country that is open to the future, because we will have left our Canadian youth with something good for the years to come, because we will have looked after social programs, health programs, because we will have ensured fairness to the provinces, because we will have negotiated with each one of them what is the best for them, rather than what we think is the best for them.

Then, Mr. Speaker, Canadians will be in a position to judge us on our record rather than on promises as the Liberals used to be so good at; Canadians then will judge our sterling performance and, finally, Mr. Speaker, they will say how much they appreciate what this Progressive Conservative Government has done to build a strong Canada, a just Canada, a fair Canada.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, looking at the whole issue, looking at the reason why we must move forward on a legislation such as Bill C-96, it is in order to make the Canadian people understand, and as a matter of fact Canadians do understand quite well. The problem in this House is with the two Opposition parties, they are slow at understanding. They find it difficult to understand, Mr. Speaker, that we are not here to waste time as they used to do when they were in power. We are here, Mr. Speaker, to put Canada back to work, and this is why we must approve a piece of legislation like Bill C-96, this is why I have risen a second time on this legislation to support the Minister of State (Finance) (Mrs. McDougall), to support the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), to tell the Canadian people that, contrary to what the Liberals and the New Democrats are suggesting, the federal Government is not reducing transfer payments, but is rather providing a sensible increase, an increase it can afford, and this is what differentiates a responsible Government such as this one from an irresponsible Government as the Liberal had.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Questions or comments. The Hon. Member for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin).

Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act

Mrs. Pépin: Mr. Speaker, I heard my colleague mention that Canadians would acknowledge that the Tory Government is fair and has improved financial conditions. I should like to ask him a question. When we look at the last Budget, at the way taxes are distributed, I feel that as far as equity is concerned low-income people are taxed more than the rich. Taxes have increased by 23 per cent for people earning between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and by 1 per cent for people earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Is that the equity to which my Tory colleague was referring a while ago?

Will Canadians remember that fact? If we look at the Budget, the low wage earners have been taxed and the price of drugs has gone up. Now, if somebody says that senior citizens with low incomes will remember the equity of the Tory Government, I fail to see whether my colleague is referring to that matter.

Mr. Champagne (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Outremont (Mrs. Pépin) should have consulted with her other colleagues, especially the former Minister of Finance from Quebec. She would have realized that our Government is much fairer than hers ever was on the subject of income tax. Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, that under the Liberals, people in the highest income brackets were not paying income tax? They do now, with our minimum tax system. Is the Hon. Member for Outremont trying to tell us that in the good old days, when the Liberals were in power, it was perfectly normal to give the rich a free ride and to make the poor foot the bill, because that is exactly what they did, Mr. Speaker? And today, she tells us our Budget isn't fair because we are making the rich pay. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Outremont is not being very consistent, and I may remind her that this Budget is doing the most for low-income families. They get the most out of this Budget because we are going to make advance payments, something the Liberals did not do. The child tax credit has been increased. Did the Liberals ever do that? And increased over and above the annual inflation rate, which is a net gain for low-income families, Mr. Speaker! Is the Hon. Member for Outremont trying to tell us that her Government had any consideration for the needy? Mr. Speaker, in 1981, the Liberals promised an allowance for widows and widowers between the ages of 60 and 64, but it took a duly elected Progressive Conservative Government to implement this measure. The Hon. Member for Outremont should listen to what I'm saying, because it's the truth, it's a fact.

Mr. Speaker, when we consider all the measures that have been taken in the social sphere since the Conservatives came to power, and we look at the cost-benefit balance, we see an economic climate that has improved as a result of a strong and durable recovery. Thousands of workers have gone back to their jobs, unlike what the Hon. Member for Outremont was saying when she commented that most of these jobs are part-time jobs. I don't know where she got her information, but according to mine, 83 per cent of the jobs created were permanent jobs. Mr. Speaker, we got rid of programs that had