

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**FINANCE****BUDGETARY CUTBACKS—REDUCTION OF DEFICIT—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. The situation is serious enough considering that the Government's and the Minister's integrity is at stake.

In the paper tabled last January, the Government stated that no savings would be used to reduce the deficit. Yesterday, the Minister of Finance admitted for the first time that family allowance cuts would be used to bring down the deficit.

My question to the Minister of Finance is this: Will he tell us which of the two misled the people of Canada and Members of this House?

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, first of all no one has been misleading the Hon. Member and he will know that if he has been listening to the answers. Second, if the Hon. Member takes a look at the very question he asks, namely, what are the actual expenditures of this Government on social programs, he will find year over year that in fact there is an increase in the social spending of \$2 billion.

[Translation]

**IMPACT ON FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, while the Minister of National Health was junketing to China with his official agent, he forgot about the answer given by the Minister of Finance yesterday.

I am repeating my question to the Minister of Finance who, for the first time, admitted that reductions in the growth rate . . . could the Minister explain why he could not respect his Government's commitment when he decided to use family allowances to reduce the deficit?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, nothing could be clearer than the answer given by my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Spending in the social envelope this year is going up by \$2 billion.

**Mr. Garneau:** That's not the question.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** The deficit is going down this year. Surely, the Hon. Member is capable of adding.

**TRADE****CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AUTO PACT INQUIRY**

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and refers to the comments made by Cabinet Secretary Brock who is trying to widen the range of items to be discussed in the free trade talks. Will the Government now clearly confirm the words spoken to this House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on September 27 that the Auto Pact would not be renegotiated, despite the fact that this Cabinet Secretary in the United States has called for putting that crucial piece of trade legislation on the table?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have no difficulty at all in confirming the words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**CONSEQUENCES OF CHANGE**

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, I put it to the Government—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Put it to yourself.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Watch it.

**Mr. Langdon:** Is the Government aware that the parts sector and the auto manufacturers estimate that over 10,000 jobs would go down the drain if the Auto Pact is changed? Will the Government see to it that the Auto Pact and its safeguards remain a complete and total sacred trust in these negotiations?

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** The hon. gentleman obviously prepared his supplementary question before he was aware of how I would answer his first question. That answer still stands.

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**EMPLOYMENT****CREATION OF JOBS**

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the Minister continued to boast about creating 300,000 jobs during the past year.

**An Hon. Member:** So he should.

**Mr. Allmand:** When is the Minister going to tell Canadians the whole truth about these statistics, that a large percentage of those jobs—over 30 per cent—are low paying part-time jobs and that that trend is growing? That the wages for these jobs are low paying has been confirmed recently by the Canadian Council on Welfare which states there is a growing number of working poor in Canada. When is the Minister going to tell Canadians the truth about those statistics?