

pensions for the future by ensuring that we can get a handle on that mountain of federal debt.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Scarborough West on a question or comment.

Mr. Wappel: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to make comments but I am going to ask two very specific questions of the Hon. Minister.

Mr. Beatty: Thank you.

Mr. Wappel: My colleague from Cape Breton—East Richmond in his speech earlier in the day used certain figures. I would like to know if the Hon. Member agrees with the figures that he used, which I will cite in a moment. If he does, can he provide an explanation. Namely, is it a fact that Canadians earning \$23,000, around the poverty line, have since 1984 had their taxes increased by over 60 per cent, while those earning \$100,000 or more have had their taxes increased by only 8 per cent, plus or minus a percentage? Is that true, and if it is what does the Hon. Minister have to say about it?

The second question is in connection with his remarks in his speech where he pointed to the Members on this side of the House and accused us of being blind, partisan and indicating that we were opposed to the Government's Budget for partisan reasons. I would like to ask him if he is aware of the comments of the Member for Calgary Northeast (Mr. Kindy), who is a member of his own Party, who is quoted in *The Calgary Herald* of April 30 as having said that he was opposed to the new sales tax which the Government was proposing because he feels that it is "regressive because it's on the backs of consumers".

I again quote:

Calling the tax unfair and the wrong way to reduce the federal deficit, Kindy said it will involve hiring another 4,000 civil servants and cost \$200 million to administer.

I do not consider that partisan since he sits on that side just a few rows behind the Hon. Minister. I would like the Hon. Minister's comments on his own Member's statements.

Mr. Beatty: I would be delighted to respond to these two questions. I will leave to the Parliamentary Secretary the Minister of Finance (Mr. Vincent) comments with regard to the taxation system in general. I will stick, perhaps, to my particular area which is the area of social

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programs and ensuring equity for people who are most in need.

The hon. gentleman professes a concern for Canadians who are most in need, particularly low-income Canadians. Yet his Party opposes a measure in this Budget, and indeed that is the whole point of the debate today, their opposition to a measure which will try to protect the pensions, the family allowances and the medicare of lower-income Canadians by asking higher-income Canadians to pay higher taxes on their old age pensions and on their family allowances.

You cannot have it both ways. Either you believe that lower-income Canadians should be protected and those of us who can afford to pay should be asked to pay more, or you do not. You cannot talk out of both sides of your mouth. What I proposed earlier in the day was that we apply one simple test to everyone who speaks today. Do they candidly and honestly state what they would do to deal with this mountain of federal debt? Do they propose that it can be dealt with simply by patent remedies, patent medicine or do they recognize that it is a serious problem and serious solutions have to be followed?

There is room on all sides of the House for debate and for disagreement as to how best deal with this issue. I made that point in my remarks earlier. But where there is not room is for us to simply substitute partisan posturing for policy.

Hon. Members: Hear. Hear!

Mr. Beatty: Canadians have a right to much more than that.

An Hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Member for Vancouver East on a question or comment.

Ms. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, unless I missed it, why he did not comment or explain at all to parents in Canada, particularly to many women who are in the work-force or would like to get into the work-force, about this Government's promises for five or six years that child care would be a top priority, that it was essential to equality in this country, and furthermore as the special Committee on Child-care documented, it is very damaging to this generation of children not to have good quality care that is affordable. I do not know about the Minister's experience. I hope he is talking to people who need child care, but every week in my riding, I hear from women on welfare