

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): We have maintained the full indexation of the guaranteed income supplement in place, and the payments to veterans and the child tax credit will be increasing in excess of inflation over the next three years. We have committed to put in place a minimum tax for the next taxation year. There is a wide range of matters here which direct themselves to the question of fairness, and I believe Canadians support that.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL WELFARE

ALLEGED DECLARATION BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday we proved that you did not honour your solemn commitment towards elderly Canadians.

Here is what the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare said, as reported today in the newspaper *La Presse*:

—the Mulroney Government does not have to keep last summer's election campaign promise to index old age security pensions.

Here is my question to the Prime Minister. Does the statement made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare represent the position of the Prime Minister and the Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that the position . . . The Hon. Member is not in the House today.

Mr. Rossi: They hid her!

Mr. Mulroney: On the contrary! The Hon. Member for Bourassa said that we hid her. She is one of Quebec's most distinguished women, one of our outstanding Quebecers and we want her to be constantly in the limelight. The name Bertrand commands pride. She did not say she was speaking on behalf of the Government. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Health and Welfare have been the Government's spokesmen, and I should think that was obvious enough.

FULL INDEXATION OF OLD AGE PENSIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, just to make sure that the Right Hon. the Prime Minister is as good as his word, would he now agree to ask the Minister of Finance to reinstate full old age security pension indexation, as promised in Sherbrooke on July 26, particularly

Oral Questions

in the case of elderly people living under the threshold of poverty who will lose \$54 a month as a result of the Budget?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that the record of this Government since we have been in office has been a good one.

Mr. Chrétien: It is a broken record with broken promises.

Mr. Rodriguez: Soak the poor.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): We have broadened the spousal allowance to 85,000 other new low-income Canadians who previously had not been receiving the benefits that they now receive, and I believe that is a good step forward.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If the Hon. Member wishes to look carefully at the budget documents he will see that, if in the future the circumstances and the resources permit, we will review the situation.

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PENSIONS

ELECTION CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, we have been continuing to get what can only euphemistically be described as baloney type answers from the Minister of Finance in justification for the Government's removal of indexation from pensions.

I want to ask the Prime Minister a question on the same subject. He promised Canadians on July 26 last that if a Conservative Government were elected there would be full indexation restored to all pensions on January 1, 1985. Yesterday the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Welfare, of all people, said that the Conservatives were not obligated to keep their promises. Is that the real explanation why the Prime Minister has broken his promise to Canada's pensioners?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have—

Mr. Nunziata: No integrity at all, Mulroney.

Mr. Mulroney: There is somebody who knows a little bit about integrity.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: Yes, he does.

Mr. Mulroney: It is written all over his forehead.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!