

Oral Questions

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to hypocrisy, the Prime Minister takes second place to no one.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: Obviously, the Prime Minister has not read the code prepared by the late Right Hon. Lester Pearson which set out the responsibilities and the moral responsibilities of the exempt staff of Ministers. There is the distinction—of Ministers, members of the Government.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, there have been serious allegations made in the press concerning operations of the Office of the Prime Minister. I say to the Prime Minister he has an opportunity to put these allegations to rest by agreeing to a public, independent inquiry.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: I will say this to you. The Leader of the Opposition is prepared to open every office under his supervision to any such public inquiry.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That seems like a pretty gratuitous assumption, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition is prepared to open everything. Why did he not open it this morning to the press? Why did he not show these files? What kind of an offer is the Hon. Member making when he makes such a statement? He is making a purely rhetorical statement. We have let the press look at our files. Why does his Leader not let the press look at his files? Because the mentality of those people over there is the mentality they have shown before, hiring gumshoes, hiring private detectives, pretending that their telephones are bugged, when in reality they are doing the bugging, and this happened under the leader—

Mr. McGrath: Ask Goyer.

Mr. Epp: Ask the extra-parliamentary group.

Mr. Hees: You are running down.

Mr. Trudeau: I guess you are running down over there because if you can only come up with this kind of invention—

Mr. Hees: That was certainly a killing crack.

Mr. Trudeau: This Party which is constantly using confidential documents received in brown envelopes, reading from confidential documents, that have been obtained illegally—they use illegal documents, and then they blame us for using the public records and newspaper files. What a bunch of hypocrites!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1440)

THE BUDGET

EFFECT ON DIFFERENT INCOME FAMILIES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In his Budget last night, as well as in the Budget he brought down before, the Minister talked about fairness and recovery. I have an invitation for the Minister. I should like him to come to Oshawa. Would he agree to meet with two families? The first family is a middle-income family which lives in one part of town. As a result of the Minister's last Budget, in the next two years it will experience an increase in taxes of no less than \$500.

The other family lives in another part of town. It is headed by a lawyer who earns \$90,000 per year. As a result of last night's Budget, because of the changes the Minister introduced he will save \$7,500 in taxes.

Will the Minister agree to meet with both families and explain why he had to increase taxes on middle-income Canadians before, in order to provide subsidies for the rich now?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me first of all congratulate the Leader of the New Democratic Party for addressing the issue of the Budget, contrary to members of the Official Opposition who seem to ignore the situation of the economy and what should be done about it.

I have to tell the Hon. Member that in my own constituency there is a large number of constituents, some with very low incomes, some with middle incomes, and some with high incomes. I meet with them regularly, as I hope my friend is meeting with his constituents.

I want to draw to the Hon. Member's attention a number of features in the Budget that he seems to ignore. The only increase in expenditure this year, for instance, will go to those most in need. There will be \$50 per month going to single people on GIS, the Guaranteed Income Supplement and we will allocate over \$1.3 billion to unemployed youth.

The changes that have been made in addition, in terms of profit sharing, will allow low-income workers, middle-income workers and high-income workers to share in the profits of their corporations. The changes that are going to be made to the pension schemes will benefit all workers coming under federal authority and all workers covered by the Canada Pension Plan. They will also ensure that those who are not employees, those who are running or are employed by small businesses who do not have pension plans, those independent operators like farmers, fishermen and professionals, have the same benefits that are available at the present time to those who are working in a plant and who are benefiting under defined benefit plans. The proposal in the Budget is to give equal access to all Canadians to pension benefits in this country. I invite my friend to go back to the Budget.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago the Prime Minister referred to hypocrisy. I want to tell the Minister of Finance that when it comes to the sharing of income and