

Oral Questions

Mr. Mulroney: Why not next week? Let's have an emergency debate next year, they say.

Mr. Chrétien: No. Now. Sit down and we will start.

Mr. Mulroney: That is how consistent the Liberal Party is. If my hon. friend wants to be consistent, he should just refer to a statement that he, as an Hon. Member, made, speaking for the Government on July 26. "In the family allowance area there is the child tax credit itself. You can redistribute the moneys that are presently in that envelope system. This is one area that we are looking at". They were looking at that then, and they never told the Canadian people. There is the hidden agenda. They were the Government of Canada, and we are trying to get it back on track.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST THAT MINISTER APPEAR ON TELEVISION PROGRAM

Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Prime Minister has been misquoting my own Leader and other Members. We are never allowed the chance to come back. It is completely out of context.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Frith: Will the Prime Minister instruct his health Minister to appear on *The Journal* this evening—we were to have taped at four o'clock.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Frith: There has been a refusal by your own Health Minister to debate the issue. Why not get this out in the open?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. With due respect, the Chair cannot hear the question when the other side of the House is also making too much noise. May I hear the question, please? I could not hear it.

Mr. Frith: Will the Prime Minister allow an emergency debate to take place beginning at three o'clock today? I think it would be better for him to release the white papers on family allowance and old age security so Canadians can get a true understanding of the parameters of the debate, and get an understanding of what your hidden agenda is.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I know there would be a certain amount of urgency involved for my hon. friend because he referred to the CBC. During CTV's *Question Period*, the Leader of the Liberal Party said on November 18: "The policy of the Liberal Party is in favour of universality at the moment".

Mr. Chrétien: Yes or no.

Mr. Mulroney: We are in favour of universality, not at the moment, but every moment. That is the difference between the Conservatives and the Liberals.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1440)

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition says that he is in favour of it at the moment, and you talk about the CBC. We are in favour of universality at all times, on Global, CTV, CBC, Radio Canada, and TVA.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

USE OF TAX REVENUE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question if I could. It is very difficult, I am sure the Prime Minister understands, to know exactly what the Government has in mind in a particular sense. The Minister of Finance on the seventeenth indicated, in response to a question, that the intention of the Government was to tax and redirect certain of the benefits received by higher income groups to the benefit of lower income groups. Is that a departure from the statement made last week by the Minister of Finance where he not only indicated that was the Government's intention with respect to high income groups but he also indicated that was the Government's intention with regard to middle-income groups?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that my friend listen very carefully—

Mr. Deans: I am listening.

Mr. Mulroney: —to the question and the answer put to his own expert on social policy.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: Let me quote: "Would you be prepared to tax upper income Canadians to get more money into the system?" The answer from the Member for Vancouver East is: "We would be prepared to tax them and to tax back their old age pensions as well". The NDP wants to destroy the old age pensions in this country, and we are going to put up the biggest fight that you have ever seen. Any time that you try to take that away from the elderly, we will put up the biggest fight you have ever seen in this country, and stop it. I guarantee that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister aware that if I had wanted to ask the question of the Member for Vancouver East I simply would have turned around and asked her.