

Oral Questions
SURTAX QUERY

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, I will simply ask the question again. As the Member of his own caucus, the Hon. Member for Parry Sound-Muskoka asked, will the Minister clearly tell the House whether it is the intention of the Government to place a surtax on pensions or family allowances? Yes or no?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The Hon. Member says he repeats his question. I give him the same answer.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS AND FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is extremely important that the people of Canada quite clearly understand what the Government is saying.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Redway: I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government is unequivocally committed to maintaining the current old age security system and the family allowance system? Will every Canadian who is presently entitled to receive a cheque for old age security or for family allowance continue to receive it? If so, how does the Government propose to improve benefits for low income Canadians?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the opposition Members recognize that good questions can be asked.

Mr. Gauthier: Answer it.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): The answer to the question is yes. It is the same situation and we have answered it the same way to others. I am glad that Members can understand it. I hope that the Opposition might consider that as well.

CHILD TAX DEDUCTIONS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I would like to give him one more chance to tell the truth to the Canadian people.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Copps: Did I understand the Prime Minister to respond "no" to my colleague when asked:

[*Translation*]

Does his Government intend to eliminate gradually, over a number of years, the tax exemptions for children? Did he say no to that question here in the House today?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will find out when she reads *Hansard*. It is all there.

[*English*]

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Prime Minister. He said "no" in the House today. In fact the document from whence came the question of my hon. colleague was drawn from his Government's discussion paper called—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the Member have a supplementary question?

Ms. Copps: Will the Prime Minister tell the truth on what his Government intends to do as described in his own document, *A New Direction for Canada*?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when my hon. friend understands that you do not have to offend people to get an answer in this House, she will realize that the answer was amply and adequately given to her satisfaction and the satisfaction of all Members of the House of Commons.

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IMMIGRATION

LONG TERM ILLEGAL MIGRANTS PROGRAM—ANONYMITY OF APPLICANTS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister and her predecessors have given assurance that under the Long Term Illegal Migrants Program the anonymity of applicants will be so honoured that those applications which are rejected will not in any way be used to trap people who trusted the Government's promises. Therefore, will the Minister explain why the executive director of immigration caused this copy of a rejected anonymous application to be sent to the Director General, Immigration, Ontario Region, Toronto, for matching for the purpose of enforcement, that is, deportation? How does the Minister intend to correct this dangerous abuse of the executive director's power?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have met with the Hon. Member to discuss this situation. I have given him my assurance personally that the identity of individuals will not be disclosed. I do so again publicly today.