

Oral Questions

AMOUNT OF DEFERRED TAXES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, recognizing that a deferred tax is a tax which one might presume should be paid at some point, is it not more reasonable that those who owe the country billions of dollars in deferred taxes should, at the very least, pay a reasonable interest for the deferral so that we do not have to reduce the incomes of those who worked to create this country by reducing their pensions, and thereby reducing their ability to purchase and provide for themselves?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if we follow through with the direction in which the Hon. Member wants to go, if he wants to wipe out the forest products industry, the mining industry, and the steel industry in Hamilton, an industry which supports many workers in this riding, we will see fewer jobs in those industries, and that will be on his head.

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● (1430)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I should like to indicate to the House the presence in our gallery of Mrs. Eva Gredal, Member of the Danish Parliament, who is the leader of a delegation from the European Parliament. The delegation is in Canada for the thirteenth annual meeting of the Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

OLD AGE SECURITY

FULL INDEXATION OF PENSIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, to hear our new Robin Hood, 1985 version, who takes from the poor to give to the rich, he wants to get rid of the elderly altogether. My question is directed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker.

The day before yesterday, six national organizations denounced the Budget brought down by the Minister of Finance. Yesterday in Quebec City, the three main organizations that represent over 200,000 senior citizens asked me to put the following question to the Prime Minister: Will the Prime Minister undertake today to restore full cost of living indexing for Old Age Security Pensions, as he solemnly promised to do during the election campaign?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would refer the Hon. Member to what he said on November 30, 1982. I would also refer him to what the former Minister of National Health and Welfare said in the House, that is, that if the deficit is allowed to continue, then the very money we are spending on the debt load is money that we cannot use for social programs. In fact the Hon. Member said he supported that type of approach in his speech in 1982. It is strange that he does not support the same approach now in 1985.

[Translation]

SITUATION OF ELDERLY

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, the lack of an answer from the Right Hon. Prime Minister is an insult to Canada's 2,500,000 senior citizens, and shows a blatant lack of courage.

Does the Right Hon. Prime Minister have the courage to ask the elderly when, after they have already paid their rent, telephone bill, food bills, \$50 a month, they have only \$27.40 per month left to buy clothes, toothpaste and soap which have now been taxed by the Minister of Finance, does he have the courage to ask them to make one more sacrifice?

Does the Right Hon. Prime Minister have the courage to rise in the House and tell them what they will have to give up?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is not what the Hon. Member was saying in 1982. Two years ago he was saying the exact opposite of what he is saying today. This is one of the most hypocritical and most typically Liberal statements ever heard in the House of Commons.

Shoemakers have the worst shoes.

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Malépart:—I would like to ask the Prime Minister to withdraw his words.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

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ENERGY

WESTERN ACCORD—OIL COMPANIES' REVENUES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Just a minute ago the Prime Minister said that the elderly are entitled to what a grateful nation can provide. I wish to offer the Minister a second option in this regard. Considering that the oil industry has received a windfall, according to them, of