

*Statements by Ministers*

This tax reform is a government initiative that the Government intends to take to the people of Canada in the 1988 or 1989 election campaign. If that is its reform, I will take on the Minister of Finance or any Conservative candidate on any television station on any platform at all anywhere across Canada.

In the 1984 election campaign, the now Prime Minister promised a fairer tax system. He said that those wealthy banks and companies will pay and pay handsomely. I suppose they paid handsomely to the Conservative war chest because they are not being made to pay handsomely in tax revenues that would allow us to take the tax burdens off average Canadians.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, finally, the Government had a choice. The measures announced today are not just decisions made by the Minister of Finance. They are supported by the Progressive Conservative Party and by all Members and all Ministers in that Party. Apparently, this is to be the Conservative Party's platform for the next election campaign. Mr. Speaker, if the Conservatives want to ask the average Canadian to vote for them on the basis of a platform that favours the banks and large corporations at the expense of ordinary Canadians, they can go right ahead. We favour genuine tax reform that is fair

and equitable to all Canadians, to all taxpayers and not just to the corporate sector.

[*English*]

We are prepared to fight an election campaign on this particular tax reform. I wish that even now the Minister of Finance would understand what a mistake he is making, listen carefully to the proposals made by the Finance committee, listen to what average Canadians are saying, and then come back with real tax reform that brings taxes down for average Canadian families, that takes poor Canadians right off the tax rolls and not just temporarily, that ensures full indexing of the tax system and not just a partial deindexing, and that is fair to families. Better to be fair to average families than to be fair to the banks. That is our slogan.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I think you might find that there have been discussions between the Parties and there would be consent to call it 6.20.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being 6.20 p.m., this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven a.m.

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned.