

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** This is the last day of debate on some of these detailed amendments that have been before us. This is the last chance to put across to the Conservatives here in this Chamber and to the people of Canada the sense of deep concern and outrage that exists in many parts of the country about what is taking place with regard to family allowances.

We have an economic crisis according to the Government. Yet the first victims of that economic crisis are not the banks. The banks get bail-outs. The victims are not the large corporations. The large corporations get extra tax advantages. The victims are not the speculative business people. Those people get a new bonus of \$500,000 through changes in the capital gains tax. The victims in the original plan were, first, to be pensioners then the children. The pensioners rose up. Thousands, hundreds of thousands signed petitions which forced the Government to see reason. The Government having listened to pensioners and having recognized that it had made a mistake then moved on to its next victim, the children of the country. Across the country people tried to mobilize to protect those children.

As the Member for Essex-Windsor, I have personally handed in thousands of petitions from the Essex County-Windsor area protesting the heartlessness of making children the victims of our economic problems. Yet the Conservatives have refused to listen. They have refused to listen despite the sense that any civilized society has that children are a common concern, a common responsibility and a responsibility which all of us in society have to defend. Yet these children are the ones facing the deindexation of family allowances which support them.

Any society deserves to give such children full respect. Yet in this society, the Government makes them the victims.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, this debate deal with justice. It is a debate on a just society, a debate to see whether an economic crisis should victimize Canadian children and for this political party and all the people who signed these petitions, the message is clear. This message is: No, it is not fair, it is not something that we want to see in our society. We want a society where the children are the pride of their country.

[*English*]

With this amendment, Mr. Speaker, we give the Conservative Party a last chance. I hope that my Conservative colleagues who are here today recognize the sense of charity out of which we offer this last chance to them. It is not because we love them, it is because we want to give them that good Christian chance to repent. We want to give them that last possibility before the voters utterly and totally condemn them. Since the Conservatives launched this attempt to take money out of the mouths of babes, their public opinion standing has fallen so far that it is even below the Liberal Party's now. With that sense of hell and damnation facing them, we offer a chance of repentance. We offer them a last chance to escape that terrible fate.

### *Adjournment Motion*

**Mr. Benjamin:** Repent brothers.

**Mr. Langdon:** We offer it with a sense of charity, charity which is ill-deserved, but charity that says we will give you this chance. Vote for our amendment. It will give you a year's operation to this Bill, but let us put in a sunset clause. I know that every good Conservative in this House believes in sunset clauses. They want sunset clauses on every Government initiative that can be brought to bear. Why not a sunset clause in this case that takes their promise seriously?

● (1600)

After all, the Conservatives promised us that a year from now the economy would be in superb shape and that they would have set right the problems of the past. For the purposes of this amendment, we are prepared to take them seriously. We charitably say to them that at the end of the year they should withdraw this deindexation, return to fairness for children, return to justice for the country and return to a full meeting of the 3 per cent increases in the cost of living which they are doing away with for this year. We ask them to think of their own future, and we do so charitably and with a sense that we respond to the hundreds of thousands of people who petitioned the House to think again. We ask them to think again in a year and to give the people of the country—the children and the women who receive the family allowance—the improved economy which they promised. They should take away this nasty, brutish measure and return to a full system of justice for children and fairness for families.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 46, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for London East (Mr. Jepson)—Young Offenders Act—Legislation's philosophy; the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps)—Government administration (a) Effect of budget cut-backs (b) Government policy; the Hon. Member for Humboldt-Lake Centre (Mr. Althouse)—Bankruptcy Act (a) Provisions affecting farmers and fishermen (b) Role of Royal Canadian Mounted Police.