

**Mr. Broadbent:** The Prime Minister is getting very desperate indeed. He came close to answering the question, though. I will give him credit this time. It has been two and one-half months and he is getting there. Maybe we will finally get an answer.

## TAXATION PROPOSALS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, the proposal that was presented yesterday in the House by the Minister of Finance, in which the Government was thinking about levying a special tax on a particular social program, would completely and utterly vitiate the universality principle and sneak a means test through the backdoor. This is totally unacceptable to every recipient of a pension and family allowance in Canada, and is something that all Canadians oppose. Therefore, will the Prime Minister say that, whatever option the Government chooses in the future, it will not go the route of imposing a special tax on a particular social program?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** That special tax idea was advanced by the Member for Vancouver East, and I tell you that we will not follow that program advanced by the NDP which is designed to destroy universality in this country. You are the people who change your position every other day. That is what is wrong with the NDP.

## REQUEST FOR TAX INCREASE FOR THE WEALTHY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Clearly this issue is finally getting to the Prime Minister because once again he resorts to misstating the truth.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Three strikes and you are out, Ed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** He just said that the Member for Vancouver East has advocated a position that the Government of Canada is contemplating. I say to the Prime Minister that the position taken by the Member for Vancouver East was that the kind of income she was alluding to should be considered as part of revenue—

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, considering that the Prime Minister has expressed concern about the wealthy having too much in the way of income, and considering that he promised during the election campaign that he would impose a handsome tax on the wealthy, instead of fouling up the country's atmosphere and confusing the country on social programs—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order! Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member have a question?

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Broadbent:**—will he deliver on what he promised and bring in a tax increase now on the rich to make them pay their share?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is not doing very well. He always does better when he is sanctimonious.

**An Hon. Member:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Look who's talking.

**Mr. Mulroney:** This bears exactly on what the Member said yesterday.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Answer the question.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The question was: "Would you be prepared to tax upper income Canadians to get more money into the system?" And the Member for Vancouver East said: "We would be prepared to tax them and tax back their old age pensions as well". That is the position of the NDP, and that is the position which we reject in the interest of—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Absolute nonsense.

**Mr. Nunziata:** We want to know your position.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is nonsense, and you know it.

**Mr. Mulroney:** If we followed that principle as defended by the NDP, it would have the effect of destroying the principle of universality which we want to maintain. That is the difference.

## REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF WHITE PAPERS

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, I might add that Canadians are confused about this issue because those on the government front bench have confused and fumbled the issue themselves.

If the Prime Minister is serious about wanting to have a debate on this issue, let me make this proposal to him. Would he instruct his Government House Leader to allow the emergency debate to take place tomorrow and, after a full meeting with his Cabinet, release by tomorrow morning the directional papers on family allowances and Old Age Security so that Canadians can understand his hidden agenda?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there is a classical example of Liberal consistency.

**Mr. Malépart:** Yes or no.

**Mr. Mulroney:** They ask for emergency debate—tomorrow.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Today.

**Mr. Gauthier:** Why not today?