

we are continuing to monitor it very carefully to evaluate precisely the kinds of concerns which my hon. friend mentions, and others, and to do everything we can for the elderly.

#### REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MEET SENIOR CITIZENS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and I have a somewhat similar background inasmuch as we both drove a truck at one time. The Prime Minister should take his responsibility as Prime Minister very seriously. He has done very well, to go from a truck driver to a Prime Minister.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Don't disparage truck drivers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Henderson:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear. The Prime Minister has to stop playing the role of a truck driver.

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

**Mr. Henderson:** You gotta stop playing truck driver, you gotta stop blowing your own horn, you gotta stop giving the gears to senior citizens, and you gotta—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sorry, but I cannot hear the question. Could the Hon. Member, please, direct his question through the Chair?

**Mr. Henderson:** Will the Prime Minister do the honourable thing and meet next week with senior citizens in a public forum in Ottawa? I want a clear answer. Yes or no.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I meet with senior citizens all the time, and I will be meeting with senior citizens again next week.

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[Translation]

#### PENSIONS

##### DEINDEXATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The Progressive Conservative Party has called a special end-of-session caucus meeting to be held this Saturday, and they are obviously going to discuss pensions and the de-indexation announced by the Government in the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, this gives the Prime Minister only 24 hours, since the group of Conservative Members that just travelled across the country knows that Canadians in general are opposed to de-indexation. Instead of waiting for his special caucus meeting, will the Prime Minister take advantage of the

remaining 48 hours to reverse this policy and re-instate indexation for the elderly?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken, the caucus meeting mentioned by the Hon. Member was called well before the Budget was brought down in the House.

There is no connection between the subject of the Hon. Member's question and next Saturday's caucus meeting. It is the usual meeting held at the end of a session by any properly run caucus.

That being said, I repeat the comments I made earlier. The Budget proposals on limiting indexation are not in effect at this time and will not come into effect until January 1 of next year, and if we do proceed with this measure, the initial effects thereof could not be felt until April, 1986. We have a whole year to monitor the situation, as we mentioned in the Budget. It seems to me that is entirely reasonable.

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#### THE ADMINISTRATION

##### PROMISES CONCERNING CONSENSUS AND CONSULTATION

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

During the election campaign, the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party promised he would follow a policy of consensus and consultation. Is consensus dead? Is consultation now being ignored? If that is not the case, why is the Prime Minister ignoring the consensus reached by all social groups, including business, that are opposed to indexation. And why is his Government ignoring his promise to consult with the elderly?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, one of the problems I admit we do encounter on a regular basis is the fact that as far as large groups in our society are concerned, we cannot meet the demands or needs of all groups at the same time. In fact, I think even our political adversaries would acknowledge, and rightly so, that we are trying to find a consensus, to build a consensus, on important national issues.

I can say without the slightest hesitation that, as far as this particular measure is concerned, we were somewhat hesitant, the proof being the statement in the Budget that we are going to monitor the situation on a regular basis. No one enjoys budget cutbacks, any more than my hon. friend does, and that is why we wanted to monitor the situation very closely in order to be fair to the elderly citizens of this country.