

unacceptable, considering the fact that they represent thirty times the wages—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that I asked him to get his own information because I had already answered the question yesterday. He has contacts in the private sector. He may know what it costs to retain the services of a lawyer nowadays, especially one from one of the big law offices, like the Member for Saskatoon West. Perhaps he could ask the President of Iron Ore what he is getting. If we want to attract people from the private sector to sit on a Royal Commission and if we want qualified people, we must be prepared to pay—

**Mr. La Salle:** Not \$800 a day, and \$1.40 for children!

**Mr. Trudeau:** In my opinion, the Hon. Member is not only showing his surprise but also his ignorance—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

I apologize to the Prime Minister, but I decided to stop this exchange because it is no longer what oral question period should be, namely, a period of questions and answers.

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[English]

### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### CANADIAN COUNCIL ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POVERTY STATISTICS

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, I hope the Prime Minister will be as loquacious in answer to this question.

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

**Mr. Murphy:** I think the Liberals are sensitive again.

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Poverty statistics released yesterday by the Canadian Council on Social Development are a terrible indictment of the Liberal Government's policy on economics in Canada. There were 3.5 million Canadians living in poverty in 1980 and at least a million more have been added to that total, including single parents, working parents, unemployed, as well as senior citizens. How does the Prime Minister justify the scandalous poverty situation, which has resulted from his own Government's deliberate policies of high unemployment, part-time jobs, the six and five wage controls, and the abandonment of a guaranteed income policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am afraid I did not catch the gist of the question. The Hon. Member is asking a series of questions on Government policy. We are explaining them every day. The six and five program, for instance, has in effect succeeded in bringing

### Oral Questions

down inflation from a high of 12.5 per cent to something like 8 per cent or 9 per cent now, and this percentage is still declining. We could talk of every one of our policies, including the ones we adopted when the Government was first elected, the increase in the Guaranteed Income Supplement, and these are all areas where the Government is conscious of the importance of helping first those who need help the most.

**Miss MacDonald:** Like Donald Macdonald.

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Madam Speaker, that is a very unclear, uncaring answer from a millionaire Prime Minister.

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

**Mrs. Mitchell:** I was talking, Madam Speaker, of those people—

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Madam Speaker:** Order. It is Wednesday again.

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

**Mrs. Mitchell:** My supplementary question, Madam Speaker, is also for the Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Sit down.

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

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. May I remind Hon. Members that other Members have a right to ask questions.

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

**Madam Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Vancouver East.

#### REQUEST FOR PENSION INCREASES

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, I am talking about the over four million poor people who are living in Canada. There are four million people living in poverty in Canada, and the Liberals are laughing, including the Prime Minister.

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

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

**Mrs. Mitchell:** The Prime Minister did not even relate to the question on poverty, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. If the Hon. Member wants to put a question, she must do just that. She knows that anything that is not a question is bound to provoke these kinds of jibes. If she could keep to her question, I think that she would get a legitimate answer.

The Hon. Member for Vancouver East.

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister, after three years of lip service—