

obviously selective on the one side, and in that respect it is not clear nor is it correct.

I wish to indicate to the Member that when she refers to these issues, she does not refer to the increases in the child tax benefits. She does not refer to the fact that today 860,000 Canadians are working who were not working three years ago on this anniversary. Obviously, that is a change.

The Deputy Prime Minister also indicated the other day that there are more taxpayers, and those are some of the reasons why. I should also say to the Hon. Member that when she looks at some of these papers and uses that in her own question in terms of predictions, I don't think one should stay with predictions, but one should look at actual facts. Those actual facts state that today 263,000 Canadians are above the poverty line who were below the poverty line three years ago.

#### INDEXATION—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** I would direct the Minister to *Hansard*. I was quoting five authorities on social policy, and the facts which primarily were concerned with family benefits. The Minister should know this.

Rather than defending his Government's anti-family tax policy, I wish—

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member is straying into argument and going beyond the usual preamble. I would ask her to put her question to the Minister.

**Ms. Mitchell:** Since deindexation has the most negative impact on families, I wonder if the Minister would reverse his tax and become an advocate for families. Will he advocate full indexation of the family allowance, the child tax credit, the sales tax credit, and also the cut-off thresholds, as a beginning step toward greater tax fairness for families?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I have been an advocate for that, that is why the Prime Minister and the Government have advocated increased credits, which we have already implemented—

**Ms. Mitchell:** Full indexation.

**Mr. Epp (Provencher):**—earlier payments of the increased child tax credits. The tax reform paper also looks at that question.

The last point I would make to the Hon. Member is that if she wishes to be an advocate, could she go back to Manitoba and ask the socialist Government why, when we increased the Canada Pension Plan benefit for disability, that Government does not forward it to the very poorest?

### Oral Questions

#### HEALTH

##### AIDS—TESTING OF IMMIGRANTS

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Canadians are increasingly aware of the alarming growth in AIDS cases in Canada, and indeed in North America. In fact, in the United States it is projected that by 1991 there will be 23 million cases or carriers of the virus.

In light of recent legislation in the United States regarding AIDS tests for immigrants and refugees, will the Minister tell the House whether he is contemplating similar measures for Canada?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, in respect to mandatory testing of any type, specifically for immigration, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and myself, along with our cabinet colleagues, are working very closely on this issue. On the surface when one looks at that issue, many people would say that it is a policy that we could implement, as some other countries are now considering, such as the United States, on December 1 of this year. There are a number of issues, whether medical, ethical, or administrative, and relating also to the type or the manner in which medical examinations are presently taking place in respect to immigration applications. The Immigration Medical Review Board had indicated previously hereto that mandatory testing was not recommended. It has now re-examined that policy and recommended that it in fact be implemented.

● (1140)

The World Health Organization, to which Canada has adhered very carefully, has so far not changed its policy from a voluntary system. I know Canadians are interested in this issue. We are considering the present policy but I am not yet in a position to change it and the status quo remains.

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[Translation]

#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

##### GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, the past three years certainly have been the darkest in the history of regional development—the first Minister, the Hon. Member for York-Peel, was fired because of conflicts of interest; the second one, the Hon. Member for Langelier, was fired for incompetence; and the third one, who inherited a \$350 million hole, now heads a department that is being phased out. In the circumstances, I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the Hon. Member could now ask his question?