

All morning we debated this bill and the only words we heard from across the way were a very few short statements from the Minister of Justice who said they had to impose closure on the clawback legislation, Bill C-28.

We have no evidence whatsoever that members opposite have listened to a single thing that Canadians have said about this Bill—not in committee, not in debate here in the House of Commons, and certainly not from the people of Canada.

Just prior to that debate this morning I presented a petition from people in Big River, Saskatchewan. It is a smallish community in the northern part of my riding, The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, in north west Saskatchewan. Big River is on the eastern side of my constituency.

The seniors of that community sent me a petition that had been provided to them by One Voice, the seniors network. These people from this small community in the northern part of Saskatchewan were adding their names to those of other Canadians and seniors from right across this country who are telling this government that it cannot claw back the old age security pension, the family allowance program, or take money out of the pockets of seniors and do away with universality.

Did the government listen to those petitions? Did the government listen to the petitions that have been presented by the other members of this House who we have heard day after day after day in here? No, not at all.

I have been listening to the debate in this House. I have not heard much debate from the other side of the house. Obviously they must be listening if they are not speaking. However, if they are listening, why are they not doing what the people of Canada are suggesting to them?

It is like the other things that we have heard about in the last little while on the subject of interest rates. It was demonstrated quite clearly in the House today during Question Period. Is this government listening to the people of Canada, to the small business people of western Canada, to the farmers of Canada on the subject of interest rates? No, it is not listening to the people of Canada.

Has it listened to people on the subject of VIA Rail? Has it listened to the seniors from coast to coast who are

using VIA Rail? Has it listened to the students who are using VIA Rail? Has it listened to the tourists who have travelled this country all summer long on VIA Rail proclaiming it to be not the best service but a good service for them as tourists coming to this country? Has it listened? No, it is not listening on Bill C-28. It is not listening on clawback or on universality. I think it is a shame and a sham that it is trying to impose this on us. I say that, the people of my constituency say that and certainly, as I indicated this morning with my petition, the people of Big River are saying that to this government.

There is total chaos in this bill. Certainly the process by which we have seen the matter handled through committee, the introduction of amendments, the whole mismanagement of this matter, tells me that rather than imposing closure on this bill and rushing it through the government should be doing everything in its power to withdraw the bill and start over again so that we can have good, unflawed legislation and a government that demonstrates that it can manage not only this piece of legislation but the economy.

**An hon. Member:** And that it cares for Canadians.

**Mr. Taylor:** That is right. My colleague is absolutely right. It has mismanaged the economy and this piece of legislation, and we should have none of it.

I know that I do not have much time, but I just want to indicate something here about the bill. Bill C-28 is essentially a clawback on the old age security pension. This is being done by not fully indexing the program—an attack on universality.

I just want to put a couple of thoughts on record. Talking about universality, obviously the government has accomplished the withdrawal of universality by not fully indexing what it calls a trigger figure of \$50,000. If inflation rises by 4.5 per cent next year, the trigger figure will rise by only 1.5 per cent. That means that over time through inflation more and more of us will be caught in this whole process.

Here are some examples concerning the old age security pension. Right now a 25-year old who makes \$25,000 a year for the rest of his life will have part of his old age pension clawed back at retirement. Where is the \$50,000 there?