

But what the government is doing now in this particular bill is cutting the federal assistance which would help to pay the social assistance necessary for these people who have been put out of work by its policies. In other words, there has been a very deliberate and somewhat indirect but effective change in the quality of assistance or the amount of assistance that has been available to people who require welfare. This whole process is based on an agenda that makes it possible in this country for the rich and the corporate elite to become richer, to get more out of the system than they have had in the past. That whole process is part of this government's agenda.

The government will say that it has introduced these measures in the name of fiscal restraint and that only the rich provinces are being affected and they can afford the cap. As I pointed out before, the number of people who have been added to the welfare rolls in Ontario has increased faster than most of the other provinces. Consequently it has more need for this extra money to come in, in the future.

Even before that happened, 50 per cent of the poor in Canada lived in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. If you are poor, it does not matter which province you live in. You have the same needs and you have to go to the municipalities and the provinces to have those needs alleviated. If the federal government does not contribute to that alleviation then the province must do so, and that is going to add to the burden in the particular province.

Also, one has to recognize that Alberta for many years, British Columbia fairly continuously, and Ontario, when there is a recession in the rest of the country, are the provinces that are going to get the movement of unemployed people. I come from the province of Saskatchewan where we have had a Conservative government for the last eight years which will soon be over, thank goodness. But in those last eight years, in fact in this last year, 24,000 people left Saskatchewan. They went to Alberta. They went to Ontario. They went to British Columbia. As the recession hits those provinces many of those people are likely to be on welfare before very long, probably very quickly. They have not been able to work in those provinces long enough to build up UI benefits.

What this government has done by its policies in other areas has put more pressure on these so-called richer provinces and made it impossible for them to deal with

the requirements of the Canada Assistance Plan structure. As I said before, many of these people are forced to go on UI. Since there has been a cutback in UI they are back on the welfare roles much more quickly than one would expect.

CAP provides for a fifty-fifty cost sharing between the feds and the provinces, but only up to a certain level. When that level is reached, then the province has to find the money or the municipality has to find the money. Talk to the mayor of Toronto right now. He will tell you a long story about how difficult it is to deal with the extra requirements put on the city because of the closing of plants, because of the needs of the people who have been taken off work as a result of closing of plants caused in many cases by the free trade agreement and the GST increasing the cost of operation in Ontario.

Bill C-32 is just another example of how the government has decided to place the burden of paying off the debt, paying off the deficit or the accumulated debt, on the shoulders of those who can least afford it. The government has not targeted the people who caused the debt or asked them to pay the debt because the corporate taxes have declined 20 per cent since 1986 and the profits for those same corporations have increased by 34 per cent.

We have a situation where this government is making a deliberate decision to reduce the amount of money that is going to be available to people who are forced to go on social assistance and not going to the source of the problem for funds to take care of that situation.

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member for Brampton moved that Bill C-32, an act to amend the Canada Assistance Plan, be read the second time and referred to committee, many of us were outraged.

I was particularly shocked by his closing statements in the remarks he made yesterday. I will quote them: "There are no quick, painless fixes to the deficit and debt problems we have inherited. I urge all members of the House to support this motion and to join us in accepting our fiscal responsibility to all Canadians".

We cannot fool the Canadians sitting at home in their living rooms at this moment or on the replay tonight. If the government was truly interested in fiscal responsibility, it would have begun years ago.