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As I reflected on what Mr. Simon said, I could not help but flip over the pages of history in my mind and to think of the process of democratization of our countries. In the United States the watershed occurred in 1787 and 1789, when they passed their bill of rights which said in substance that Congress shall be prohibited from invading the lives of the individual citizens of that country. A few years later the republic of France did the same thing. One hundred years previous to that England passed its bill of rights as a statute, not as part of the constitution—because we all know that England does not have a constitution. When William and Mary took over the throne of England the good citizens had the foresight to ask for a bill of rights to ensure that the constitutional monarchy could not invade their private lives. That is the history of the democratization of the constitutions as we know them. Essentially they free us from arbitrary control by the state or the government.

Here we have a government that again moves into the area of arbitrary decision-making. A few years ago it instituted a program of training for health facilities in the provinces. It induces the provinces and twists their arms to participate in that process and to use their funds in it. Once their tax structure training facilities and their capital expenditures are committed, then all of a sudden the federal government says, "Too bad, we can't afford it any longer; you're on your own". These are the ways in which the federal government intrudes in our lives. They come to us as though they are the great benefactor of the citizens, but in actual fact they become our governors and our masters.

Mr. Nystrom: That sounds like Bill Davis.

Mr. Friesen: It can sound like whomever you wish. If my socialist friend wishes to align me with Bill Davis, I certainly do not mind it. However, I do not want to be aligned with the socialists to my left and in Saskatchewan who want to take away this whole decision-making process and give it to the state. They want to enlarge the bureaucracy and they say, as my friend's leader has done across Canada, that there ought to be more government spending in a period of deficit financing.

If this government would really like to help the poor, they had better cut back on their deficit financing and their waste. Because every time a dollar is wasted it is a dollar that is taken away from the poor of this country. The Auditor General's report last week pointed out that the government wastes many dollars as, for example, where they allowed the cost of ice-breakers to multiply six times through uncontrolled accounting and uncontrolled spending. As soon as they allow those costs to escalate six times, they are taking those dollars away from the poor in our country who really need the money. This government cannot justify and honestly explain how their Liberal philosophy is helping the poor when at the same time they carry on this kind of waste.

Mr. Simon goes on to talk about what it costs in New York to carry on the operations of that debt-ridden city. He pointed out that much of it was a kind of collusion between civil servants, the unionized workers and government officials—the

Health Resources Fund Act

dishonest politicians who did not want to call a spade a spade. What this country needs more than anything else is a political will to make hard decisions.

Miss Bégin: Bill C-2 is one of them. Why don't you approve of it?

Mr. Friesen: The minister interrupts. I wish that she would participate and tell us all the implications of this bill. If the government is really serious about helping the poor in this country, why don't they do something?

An example of the way they are not helping the poor is illustrated by the social conditions the native Indians of our country must face. The 1971 census showed that there were approximately 295,000 native Indians in Canada.

Mr. Dawson: Talk about the Grey Cup.

Mr. Friesen: If the members would let me finish my speech, maybe they would learn something.

Miss Bégin: We will try.

Mr. Friesen: I know that the minister will try because I have sat with her on committee and I think she shows a good deal of logic. I think that some of her senior officials have sold her a bill of goods, but I respect her and her ability to deal with her concepts.

There were approximately 295,000 native Indians in Canada in 1971. In 1975 there were approximately 12,000 civil servants in the Department of Indian Affairs and northern Development providing services to these native Indians, approximately one civil servant for every 24 Indians. I wonder, does it really take that many people to administer the budget of the department of Indian affairs? This department with its staff of 12,000 in 1975 included 59 Indians. Now there are almost 6,000 native Indians on the staff of the department of Indian affairs.

The fact is that the money in this department is not being spent on the native Indians who need it. It is not helping the poor and people who really need help, but the middle class. The native Indians are not getting the money; the people working in the department are using it in the administration of those funds. It is for reasons like this that 43 per cent of every dollar in our country is spent on government.

With this kind of overhead we cannot possibly be helping the poor in this country. When we say we are giving the poor a dollar, we are really giving them only 60 cents. Because of our high inflation, government waste and this government's propensity to spend money where it is not needed, or to overlook or run short of money in areas where it is really needed, the poor are not getting the money the government says it is giving them. There is no way a 50 or 60-cent dollar for the poor can be justified. As a matter of fact, statistics indicate that in 1968 the dollar was valued at 49.9 cents but those statistics did not look very good around 1970 or 1971, and we changed the plumb line for evaluating the dollar. When that did not look very good around 1974, we changed it again. Rather than deal