

credit. How many of these mothers who are poor actually make the claim?

Senator Fairbairn: Exactly.

Senator Gigantès: Eighty-five per cent.

Wonderful coverage. Eighty-five per cent. How many out of the 15 per cent? How about these poor people who are too sick, too tired, too stoned, too whatever—

Senator Fairbairn: Or illiterate.

Senator Gigantès: —or illiterate, who do not now fill in the necessary paperwork to get the child tax credit? And, of course, they have not filed an income tax because they are below the taxable levels. We are asked to believe that somehow all of these good Tories will be running around finding these suffering mothers and pressing \$248 into their hands in four equal segments. I do not think so.

In other countries where this same sort of tax prevails, it has not happened. They have not been rescued. They have been allowed to stay there and rot in their poverty and misery feeling friendless, helpless and bringing up children who will grow up feeling friendless and helpless to be the children of yet another generation, and to harm our society.

Senator Fairbairn: I have another question just following along on what you had said. I wonder whether you would agree with my contention that there has been in this country already over the last several years, through negligence, a lack of focusing on these 15 per cent, or whatever the percentage may be, in terms of literacy. Illiteracy in Canada is much higher than that. But because we have failed to focus on this level, we are solidifying an underclass in our society that, once established and once being supported in a way such as is now common across Canada with the food banks and these kinds of things that never used to exist in our country—once this underclass is established, it will be incredibly difficult to eradicate it and it will require incredibly sensitive and compassionate policies to prevent generation after generation of young people coming through this same process.

I am wondering whether this is something that you yourself see, or have seen in all the research you have done on employment and everything?

Senator Gigantès: You will remember also, Senator Fairbairn, when we were doing the youth report under the able and wonderful chairmanship of our friend, Jacques Hébert, we found that in this city of Ottawa—and this is back in 1985—fat city, they call it in the rest of Canada, there are over 400 youngsters sleeping outside at night in the winter without any shelter at all. They are looking for a hot grate to sleep on, freezing in somebody's doorway. This is in Fat City.

● (1740)

People say that I knock on Tories. There is another member of the youth committee, and you may remember that that member of the youth committee proposed as a solution to youth unemployment that people who hired domestics be allowed to deduct the wages they pay to those domestics. That senator, who is here in this chamber right now, was saying that this was a solution to youth unemployment. Turn our young into housemaids. That is an underclass, if you look at the sociological history of servants in Britain or France in the last century and before. All you see is misery, resentment, hatred and the reduction of the gastily class antagonisms that exist in Britain and which undermine the capacity of that country to grow. There is much hatred that exists there. That is because mother, grandmother and great-grandmother were exploited.

Senator Fairbairn: The distance between the rich and the poor.

Senator Gigantès: That is right. We have a senator here who wanted to bring this back into this country, where people came to escape from it.

If you are a Tory, you do not feel happy unless you have an underclass. I am not at all surprised when they neglect the 15 per cent because that is being a Tory. There is no charity.