

later that private company were to say: "Look, we are sorry, your investment is too high in terms of what we can afford", you and I both know what would happen. They would be pursuing that company in a court of law and they in fact would be remunerated appropriately.

The other thing that I think we need to point out is that the clawback and the deindexation are really the same. Government members lost the first round when they tried to deindex and so they are trying again and it looks very much as if they are going to be successful. Let us not kid ourselves. Let us not permit us to be sidetracked. Deindexation and clawback in the final analysis are basically the same issue. They remove what is rightfully that of others from them.

The partial deindexation, as has been mentioned on a number of occasions, is something that a lot of people have difficulty in understanding. Clearly, if it is in fact looked at in terms of \$50,000 a year revenue, these seem like large numbers. Today the concept might be somewhat appealing because most people do not earn \$50,000 a year, but let us project to the next decade. Let us remember that those people who may be wondering if this is a good idea because they have not had the time to study it as much as they might have will be the victims of this particular initiative of government within the next decade or so. In 10 years, in 15 years, they will be the clawed backs of this country.

The seniors in this country are frightened. I speak to seniors every single week. They do not know whether or not they will be able to continue to pay their bills, whether or not they will be able to continue to have the basic necessities of life, and they feel as if they have been cheated. I sympathize and empathize with them. I think it is a shame that this government should have created that sense of fear, that sense of fright, that sense of real deep concern among those who can very often less easily defend themselves.

Let us look at the kind of country that has been created which has in fact engendered this kind of fear. We have a government whose policies have pitted one region against another. We have seen that with the CF-18 contract about which Manitoba felt grieved and, therefore, felt badly toward Quebec, and I could cite a whole lot of other examples.

The government has pitted one group against another. Other people feel if seniors are earning \$50,000 a year, they should in fact not be complaining if there is a

clawback. That is what I mean by pitting one group against another rather than taking the time to explain the reality of what is going to happen.

This is a government that is pitting one individual against another. We now have people who are concerned about what their neighbours are doing, whether or not their neighbours will survive, who become jealous of certain tax conditions that some enjoy while they do not.

• (1620)

This is in fact a government that has created a nation in which we are starting increasingly to doubt each other, to be less caring, to be reaching out less than we have in the past.

Quite apart from this context, if you wish, this fear that I have been describing, we know that the government has doubled the debt, in spite of the fact that revenues have increased by well over 50 per cent over the last five years. I have mentioned the 30-plus tax increases. I have mentioned the reduction of the established programs funding that will impact upon health and education.

We also have hidden taxes. The government tries to make us believe, for example, that education is exempt and that health is exempt. Well, let us look at some of those.

[*Translation*]

Let us take books, for example. Books will be taxed. Take some services. For example, if you take non-credit courses, they will be taxed. And the tax will apply in many other situations.

[*English*]

This is a country in which there are 3.5 to 5 million poor. Among those are one million children. There are over 150 soup kitchens. The government has just chopped one half of VIA Rail and there are going to be 2,700-plus unemployed. The unemployment figures are really very misleading, because many Canadians do not know that there are Canadians who live on reservations who are not a part of those figures, and that the youth unemployment rate in Newfoundland is close to 25 per cent.

This is a government that has decimated the Atlantic fisheries and has frightened farmers throughout the whole nation. Let us remember, as I complete my remarks, that this is not just a clawback. This is, in fact, a clawback that is regressive and that is frightening, one which is concerning people. We need to look at it within