

Government Orders

income. People who are worried, people who lack self respect, people who lack confidence in their employer, people who feel bitterness toward their employer are not productive and efficient workers, no matter how hard they try.

This government has stored up problems for the Public Service of Canada for a long time to come. It is a terrible thing to do to Canadians who pay for services through their taxes and to people who, for a long time, have been proud of serving the people of Canada. These people are defending rights that are important, not only to them, but to all Canadians. A government that can remove rights from one group of Canadians can remove rights from many groups of Canadians.

We have seen it do that already with old age security. People who have saved and worked all their lives are now being told that what they saved and worked for, in true conservative principle, is going to be taken away from them.

The government has done it to the unemployed. There is an unemployment insurance scheme, but the government is going to make sure that a lot of people who most need it, in the areas that most need it, and I think particularly of Atlantic Canada, are not going to be able to qualify for unemployment insurance. They are going to have to pay into it, but they are never going to be able to benefit from it.

This issue has become an issue of honesty. We have seen how the minister, on the floor of this House, denied that the government was guilty of bad faith bargaining, despite a ruling by the Public Service Staff Relations Board whose purpose is to ensure that collective bargaining operates fairly for both sides. We have seen ads placed by this government saying that its budgetary guidelines apply to the Armed Forces and the RCMP. That is simply not true.

The budget of this government did not apply wage restraint to the Armed Forces, did not apply wage restraint to the RCMP. As of the date of publication of that ad, that was an untrue statement. That is an untrue statement today, that will be an untrue statement tomorrow, and it will be an untrue statement until this

Parliament passes this savage piece of legislation that the government has put before us.

It has become a question of honesty. Again, the government said that this applies to all members of Parliament. Well, it is really easy this year. When inflation is 6 per cent, we are going to get our nice healthy 3 per cent raise. Next year, when we go into a year where we are going to get zero increase, we will still have that nice, healthy nearly 4 per cent raise that we got this year.

• (1100)

That is not fair. That is just not fair, and it is not honest to tell Canadians that we are taking the same punishment everybody else is.

That is nonsense. It has become a question of honesty. The ad placed by the government said that other agreements and other unions have accepted 0, 3. What the government forgot to say was that, for much better paid groups of employees, it has reached settlements that are very generous in fact.

It has done them in other ways other than by increasing wage rates. It has improved classifications. It has given people bonuses. It has given them extra premiums for various kinds of things, but it has meant that employees earning say \$50,000, \$70,000, such as engineers, translators, air traffic controllers, have got in fact substantial increases in income this year.

For this government to pretend that those people are getting nothing, and therefore the lowest paid should be getting nothing, is absolutely incredible.

It will not tell Canadians the truth. It will not even tell this House the truth about those other agreements, and about how much extra income those other people are earning because of special deals made by this government. To not even tell the truth about that at this point in time, when all we are doing is looking for a solution to it, is unconscionable.

It has also become a question of fairness. One message that has got through to the public is that we have a lot of people working for the Public Service who are not earning very much money.

What has also got through to the public is that, disproportionately, a lot of those people are women. Mr. Capello said that 35,000 people would be getting this bonus because they earn under \$27,000, and that 25,000