

Again from the *Montreal Gazette*:

"UI cuts will hurt women: NAC."

This headline came from the *Times-Colonist* in British Columbia:

"UI eligibility changes hit women."

[Translation]

Chantal Hébert of *Le Devoir*:

"UIC changes are more than just cosmetic."

[English]

The *Ottawa Citizen*:

"Facing the serious human realities of unemployment insurance."

Again from the *Ottawa Citizen*:

"Long-term unemployed squeezed by UI crackdown."

And another one from the *Ottawa Citizen*:

"Many innocent people will be hurt by UI changes, lawyer says."

From the *Toronto Star*:

"Smart PM would cancel UI cuts."

I hope that this will come about, namely that we will have a new PM for a few months.

Senator Gigantès: He will cut himself instead.

The *Toronto Star*:

"Majority oppose UI changes, poll shows."

[Translation]

*Le Droit* from Ottawa:

"Valcourt's reform to cost Quebec \$30 million."

*La Presse* from Montreal:

"UI reform goes against Forget Report."

*La Presse* from Montreal:

"UI reform would siphon \$27 million out of Montreal."

[English]

*Winnipeg Free Press*:

[ Senator Thériault ]

"UI changes denounced as bid to save at expense of jobless."

*Winnipeg Sun*:

"UI changes attacked. Jobless rally to send message to elusive minister."

*Toronto Globe and Mail*:

"Widening split along class lines revealed by proposed UI changes."

The *Montreal Gazette*, February 14, 1993:

"UI changes seen as heartless attack on unemployed."

[Translation]

A minister who is supposed to represent the people of New Brunswick is responsible for this legislation.

Honourable senators, once again, the government is attacking the weakest members of our society. I could go on quoting articles from newspapers across the country, all of which agree this is no way to deal with the problem we have in Canada today.

In 1993, for a government to pass legislation that will make someone who leaves his job lose any claim to unemployment insurance is almost criminal. Under our justice system in this country, a person can be charged with an offence, but is innocent until proven guilty. Under your unemployment insurance system, people are automatically guilty if they leave their job.

There is a list of forty circumstances in which a person could nevertheless be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, but during the 4, 8, 12 or 15 weeks the appeal process will take, what will happen to these people who need food and clothing, and to their children who have to go to school? Who is going to take care of them? Honourable senators, the answer is pretty obvious.

The government of Quebec has just announced its spending estimates for the fiscal year which starts this week. In Quebec alone, social assistance payments will total \$4.4 billion. Despite all the predictions by Senator Bolduc, this year there will be an increase of \$261 million in the social assistance budget, the only department whose budget will go up in the estimates for the fiscal year that starts Thursday.

How will this unemployment insurance reform work? The government was even tempted to set up a telephone line so that citizens could call Ottawa to snitch on a neighbour they think is cheating. Mr. Valcourt dropped that idea, but he didn't drop the idea of hiring 300 more "snoops" to spy on unemployment insurance recipients. They are hiring 300 more people for security at UI offices because they are scared.

What happens when people have nothing to eat and are in need? The crime rate is going up at an incredible rate. Did