

in the country. I call upon the Government and the Minister to let the present system of universal fully indexed family allowances be maintained. I ask that the increase in the child tax credit be not only for a short duration of three years but that it continue to increase to meet the genuine needs of families and their children in the future. I ask that the total amount of money spent to benefit families and children not be reduced but in fact increased.

I know why members of the Government would not want to listen to Liberals or New Democrats. I heard the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) spit out the word "Grit" with all the anger he could muster. I could understand that, but I wonder if that Hon. Member, who cannot stand Grits and New Democrats, hates with equal passion the Catholic Bishops of Canada?

Ms. Mitchell: He probably does.

Mr. Penner: Perhaps he does. I don't know. The Catholic Bishops have joined with other social agencies in this country to urge the federal Government to abandon its plan to limit inflation protection of family allowance payments. Bishop Proulx said that the Conservative Members of Parliament should persuade the Government to put a stop to this Bill. That same bishop, who heads the Council on Social Affairs, has written to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) and has described the changes in the family allowance payments. He said—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time allocation has now terminated.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, this is the eighth closure motion I have participated in. It is becoming a habit. I guess it is called "Government by Progressive Conservatives' eighth closure motion".

Bill C-70, on which the Government has brought in closure, was introduced in the Budget back in May. The Government did not bring the Bill forward for months and months. Now here we are in the dying days of 1985 and suddenly it recognizes that it has to speed this thing up, and the only reason it has to speed it up is that it has all the cheques printed. The cheques are all ready to be put in the mail. That is exactly the way the Liberals used to operate. Before they even got Parliament to pass a law, they had all of the provisions in place. Then, of course, that forced their hand to use the kinds of Draconian methods such as closure to close off debate.

Bill C-70 is a very important Bill. It does not only deal with the deindexing of the family allowance. There is also a very sensitive clause which gives the Minister of National Health and Welfare the power to declare that the child is dead. So we have the spectacle of the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) setting up a national registry of lost children, when the Minister of National Health and Welfare, because of the very insensitive Clause 5, has the power to declare the child dead. The Government has not asked for the opinion of the provin-

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cial Governments on this question. It is a very serious constitutional question. Does the Government have the authority to do that in the first place? As I understand it, only one witness appeared before the committee to discuss the implications of Clause 5. The Government does not comprehend the seriousness of this issue. What are the implications for police forces across the country in terms of looking for lost children once they know that the federal state, because of one of its pieces of legislation, has declared a child dead? Is there the same incentive to look actively for the lost child?

I suspect it is only part of the cosmetology of the legislation to have the Solicitor General set up a national registry for lost children. I really want to appeal to the Conservative Government. I do not want to get members of the Government stirred up because I have their best interests at heart, but I must say to them that the Government is falling in the polls. I know Members of the Government read the polls and believe them like a Bible. I want to say to Members of the Government that their Party is dropping in the polls like a stone. Why is this happening? It is because the Government is bringing in legislation like Bill C-70. I want to tell the Government: cancel this Bill. Forget it. Let it die. Reprint the cheques or send them out and make good on the amount the following month. The Government can add the 60 cents back on in the following month. Then it might just go up in the polls just as it did when it backed off on the old age pensions. I think that is a wise suggestion which the Government should consider. It is not too late. It should repent before it is too late. Repent or ye shall be lost. I make this plea: You can be saved, brothers. Put your hand on your desk and repeat after me, "I will withdraw Bill C-70".

Some Hon. Members: Right on.

Mr. Rodriguez: All those in the House who think that Bill C-70 should be withdrawn say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Rodriguez: All those who think it should not be withdrawn say nay.

The yeas have it, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members who said yea join thousands upon thousands of Canadians who have asked their Members of Parliament, through petitions, letters and telegrams, to plead with the Government to listen to the voice of the people, to be saved. I want to say to the Government that if it does what we ask, it will thank us in three months' time.

May I call it one o'clock, please, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.