

*Government Orders**[Translation]*

Once again I am heckled by members on the other side. They are shouting insults at me because I am reading part of my text. When we speak about women, I find it really odd that the member who shouts the loudest in the House is a woman, a Conservative.

[English]

“Certain uninsured health care costs, such as drugs and dental services and child welfare costs including maintenance costs in foster homes”.

[Translation]

This is a most important and serious matter, and the less fortunate need a bit of love. It is not the time for government members to try to trip me up in my speech as I endeavour to explain why this proposal is wrong. We are shirking our social commitment to the poor and women. Well, that Conservative women member can go on shouting insults at me.

I must tell the hon. member, that I feel for children, elderly and women.

In Ontario several people move to the national capital region. I had the honour to sit on the committee on social services for five years, and I could see that different groups were asking help from the regional government. Some were even asking help for funeral services because they could not afford such a luxury.

When we look at the most recent reports on social services in the national capital region, that is the Regional Municipality of Ottawa—Carleton, we find out that spending is increasing twofold and fourfold right now and that the national capital people would like to give more to the people really in need in the community. I submit that the conservative government is saying now to the province of Ontario: “You are very rich, so you pay more”. That might seem alright if there was less unemployment in Ontario, if the economy was healthier, if people were spending more, if there was less bankruptcies. Every day on the news we hear of corporate and personal bankruptcies. That shows how bad the state of

the economy is. People are so hard pressed in Ontario. That province has the highest rate of cross-border shopping in Canada. We point the finger to free trade, to the economic policies of this government and this government says in turn: “Listen, we will put a cap on our assistance to provinces, Ontario for example”. And they ignore the fact that statistics shows very clearly that in the case of battered wives and abused children—

Mr. Kindy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that Ukraine has officially recognized Croatia. I hope Canada will do the same. Thank you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The hon. member has been in the House long enough to know that, quite apart from the importance of the matter, this is not a point of order. The hon. member for Carleton—Gloucester has the floor again.

Mr. Bellemare: Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed by the behaviour of the hon. member who thinks that since we are on television he can interrupt the proceedings for a flash on something which happened outside Canada and has nothing to do with a point of order.

To conclude, I would say that our government has lost its social conscience. Up to a while ago it seemed it had a little, not very much, but a little social conscience. But now, it is moving ever closer to the policies of the Reform Party by saying: that the federal government will involve itself less and less in social programs presently shared with the provinces. We are going to ask Canadians to do more volunteer work. We are going to ask companies not to contribute and help people in need of social assistance.

• (1700)

Mr. Vincent: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent of the House to table a document which should have been tabled earlier today, but was not, regrettably. I hope that in the holiday spirit, my colleagues will be kind enough to give their consent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent to table that document?