

anything is up for grabs. Does it end with hospital care? Does it end with education?

What this Government has decided to do is move our country toward social services based on charity, that those most in need must make their case and prove to the Government of Canada that they are in need. This is language it uses as a result of advice from its corporate friends.

Its corporate friends have said that we cannot afford these social programs and that we should target them programs to those in need. If you can prove, Mr. Speaker, that you are needy, if you can prove that you are poor enough to need an Old Age Security cheque, then you will get it. That is where we are going; that is the end result of the process we have just begun with this particular Budget.

My dad is angry. He fought with others to ensure that a universal Old Age Security system was introduced in our country. He just filled out his income tax return; he is 85 years old, he has a modest saving, and he had to pay taxes this year. He asked: "Son, does Alcan Aluminium have to pay taxes with \$320 million in profits?" I said: "Dad, I don't think they pay taxes. I don't have the exact figures because they are very hard to get. You must really dig to find out what companies pay any taxes".

However, here are some who do not pay any taxes at all. Alcan Aluminium is at the top of the heap. Then of course there is Royal Trust Co., Brascan, Trilon Financial, Power Financial, Hees International, Xerox Canada, Cadillac Fairview, Placer Development, Gulf Canada Resources, Confederation Life Insurance, Saskatchewan Mining Development, Total Petroleum, Bramalea, and Hudson's Bay. I could read a list of 89,000 profitable corporations that do not pay a single penny.

• (1240)

What kind of cruel Government would say to Alcan Aluminum that it can make \$300 million in profits and not have to pay a single penny in tax? However, presumably my dad is going to have to pay taxes and now he is going to find that his old age pension checks will be clawed back by the Government. That is the type of country that the Conservative Government has created. It is wrong, but why would we be surprised?

Supply

Those of us who are interested in history have read what has gone on in the past. Today the Conservatives are only doing what they have always done. Back in 1984, the very first thing the Government did was to try to reduce pensions. For some reason, the Government does not like pensions. It tried to deindex pensions so that senior citizens would receive less than they deserved.

I would like to share the following story with you, Mr. Speaker, because it tells us why the Conservative Government is doing this dastardly deed against senior citizens today. In 1925 we had a Liberal minority Government. The forerunners of the New Democrats at the time stood up and said that we need to have a pension in this country; if a person struggles, works, and contributes their whole life and retires at age 65, on behalf of the people of Canada they should receive a pension to ensure that their later lives are continued in dignity. The Conservatives in the House of Commons thought that this was terrible. They said that they could never consider an idea of a pension to a senior citizen. The Liberals were not sure what to do, but they introduced the Bill.

It was a minority Government in 1926 and the Liberals introduced the Bill and supported it, as did the forerunners of the New Democrats. But it was opposed to the last Conservative in the House. Every single Conservative stated they were against pensions. They were asked why they were against pensions. They stated that if we give pensioners any money, their children will escape their obligation to care for their people. They also stated that there are older criminals out there and if a general pension cheque is sent out it would mean that some criminals would actually get a pension cheque. They also stated it would encourage senior citizens not to save for their retirement years. Every single Conservative was against the concept of a pension.

Interestingly enough, it went to the Senate. It passed through the House of Commons because of the New Democrats of the day and the Liberal Government of the day. Then it went to the Senate where the Conservatives had the majority and it was stopped dead in its tracks. They stated that they would not pass the legislation.