

botched that industry. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the shake and shingle workers who are unemployed as a result of these botches are not very impressed by this government's telling us that everybody has to pay their fair share, and that we have to suffer in British Columbia because this government has botched it.

In my riding there is a blueberry industry. We produce more blueberries and more cranberries, more soft fruits, berry fruits like that, than anywhere else in North America. And, yet, because of the vagaries of weather we have had failures in crops this year. Those farmers are not convinced that this government is right when it says that they have to shoulder yet a further share of the pain through the capping of the Canada Assistance Plan. Young people in my riding, not young people 15 and 16 but young people 25, 26, who still cannot get full time jobs at decent wages, who still are unable to leave home.

Single moms in my riding, Mr. Speaker, who are living below the poverty line are being told because of this government's cutbacks in programs that they, in fact, are going to have to shoulder an even greater share of the burden.

All of these people are finding it very tough to believe, while half of corporate Canada is paying not one single cent, zero, in taxes. These people are finding it very, very tough to believe that they are not paying their fair share.

As if Bill C-32 is not enough, as if that is not putting the squeeze on the average Canadian enough, we have a record from this government of Bill C-21. You will remember that, that was the UI bill that made it harder to get unemployment insurance, makes the ability to collect unemployment insurance for a shorter time, and in fact makes it very very difficult for some workers in some industries to collect UI at all.

This government has partially deindexed family benefits. That means that families who need money get less each year. This government has clawed back family allowances and pensions and partially deindexed them, which means that the threshold for cutoff of benefits gets lower each year.

Further cuts to social assistance and cuts to health and post-secondary education in Bill C-69 and Bill C-20 are threatening the future of medicare and accessible education. There is still no sign of the long promised, twice

promised in election campaigns, national child care strategy which is desperately needed.

There is not enough integrity in this government to pay fairly government workers the pay equity that even the Human Rights Commission has said they justly deserve. This government is ignoring that. Nor is there enough integrity from this government to bargain fairly at the bargaining table.

Hon. members from the other side of the House get up and say to us with the highest level of sanctimony that we all have to tighten our belts and we all have to pay.

In closing, I would like to say that I would have an awful lot more respect for this government and for its agenda if it included all Canadians and did not exclude its corporate friends.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see that the Parliamentary Secretary is back. I hope she will be able to stay and listen to my comments on her speech.

[*English*]

I am very happy that I had the opportunity to hear what she had to say because the Conservative Party stands in public opinion in my city of Toronto and in North York as well at around 8 per cent.

Anyone who is wondering—perhaps members of the government party are wondering—why the popularity of their government is so low just had to listen to that parliamentary secretary stand up and give her explanation of why this unacceptable measure, Bill C-32, is being brought forward now. We understand that Canadian people are not stupid and that they have been following the activities of this government since 1981. Clearly in metro Toronto, the Canadian people have had it with this government.

She stood up and said that the deficit was a big problem and that we all had to do our share to reduce it. The ceiling is being continued on the Canada Assistance Plan so that our province of Ontario does not receive the share which the federal government agreed to give it at the beginning of the program when so many worth-while support programs were entered into by governments in