

The Budget—Mr. Barrett

child poverty, 26 per cent of children under the age of 16 are poor in the Province of Newfoundland. That is because of the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) who should be renamed the king of closures because of the Free Trade Agreement and the jobs that are lost in this country. Not a word, not a fig, not a mention of the poor. Not a word, not a fig, not a mention of the low income earners in the Budget. You do not give a damn, Mr. Speaker. You do not care about ordinary people. You are just happy you got re-elected and you think it is a big joke to go through another four years of the same hypocrisy.

It is amoral to treat poor Canadians this way. But it is not a problem for this Government because it is an amoral Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, my friend went on and on about banks, food banks and compared them to the Canadian Commercial Bank and said something about massive bank bail-outs. Does he not appreciate that the people who were assisted were people who had money on deposit with those banks? They were ordinary folk, small businesses and municipalities. I think his own municipality of Esquimalt had money on deposit in one of those banks. Certainly credit unions had money on deposit. Does the Hon. Member not appreciate what would happen if the Government had not come forward and assisted those people, businesses, boards of education, credit unions, and all the rest?

An Hon. Member: And senior citizens.

Mr. Blenkarn: People in western Canada would have been severely damaged. His attitude is that they should have been damaged, that people in western Canada ought to have been ripped off, damaged and destroyed by the Government not assisting them with banking.

I agree, Mr. Speaker, that having food banks are a disgrace. They are a disgrace because provinces do not use the Canada Assistance Plan to the extent to which they are entitled. This Hon. Member knows that. He was the Premier of a province that did not use the Canada Assistance Plan enough to solve food bank problems. I say to you that he does not know what he is talking about. What he says is great rhetoric in great speeches, but says nothing about the Budget.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I hoped that that Hon. Member would have kept his own counsel and said what he said over a cup of coffee.

I would like to talk about the Canadian Commercial Bank. Anything above a guaranteed rate under the Canadian banking insurance program is money lost. If, however, this Government is announcing a policy that it will pay out money lost on those bank accounts, then why did the Government not pay out money to the thousands of people who lost their life savings in Principal Trust? There was a lack of supervision. There was not a peep, not a word from the Government about Principal Trust.

Mr. Blenkarn: Principal Trust was all looked after, every bit of it.

Mr. Barrett: Oh, there it is, Mr. Speaker. All those people who want their money back, just write the Hon. Member and he will see that they get their cheques—everybody out there who is still missing money.

This Hon. Member has the cheek and the nerve that can only be explained by the fact that he does not understand the present Budget. The transfer payments in this Budget are being cut, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: Transfer payments are being cut back by over \$200 million.

Mr. Barrett: I find it interesting that the Tories in their right-wing rhetoric try to blame everything on everyone else. They are going to hand out billions of dollars to the oil companies. They are going to hand out \$2 billion to Opsco without even asking for a share in what it is they are investing the money of the Canadian people. Did the Member talk about that? What about the Lloydminster plant and Hibernia? I have nothing against those projects. But why give the money away? If it is Canadian taxpayers' money, then we want a share of those investments, not give it away. The Hon. Member doesn't mention anything about that. We know it is always the poor that they hold up and say should be sacrificed.

The Hon. Member mentioned British Columbia in the 1970s. We were attacked in British Columbia by right-wingers like that Member for spending money on welfare. We had balanced budgets and we did not have food banks in the Province of British Columbia.