

Mr. Nielsen: Can the hon. member blame me for not being an optimist? I am an incurable cynic now, having looked across the way since 1963.

What about all this vibrant legislation? What has the government been doing? They have been pushing up the interest rates for farmers, for fishermen and for veterans. They have locked out the young people from their right to suitable homes. The minister, by his fiscal policies, aided and abetted by millionaires row over there—and those who are not in that class hope to join those ranks—and by his confiscatory taxes and his refusal to deal with the housing problem has acted as some kind of an anti-cupid, making it difficult if not impossible for the young people in this country to get married. Does the Minister of Finance or his counterpart in Transport deny that one of the requirements for a happy marriage is a home; a place wherein to lay one's head?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nielsen: This government has callously denied this right to young Canadians by the iniquitous 12 per cent tax on homes, which is a tax on the happiness of the young people of this country.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Nielsen: This is a tax which has over and over again been piously defended in this house by the pharisaical pronouncements of both the present and the former ministers of finance, and which is embedded as a policy of a callous and heartless government.

I say to the minister, who unfortunately I do not see in the house—perhaps he is not on the roster—and the Prime Minister. Let these young people have homes. Take off the tax on happiness and give the young people a break. Come down off your high horse and out of your ivory tower and remove the iniquitous tax on building materials. I implore you people over there and in the rump to do these things.

I suppose we may as well try to get blood out of a stone as sympathy out of this government. The government's next move, having authorized a \$50 million arts centre of which 99.9 per cent of Canadians will never see the inside—

Mr. Woolliams: That is George's house.

Mr. Nielsen:—and having spent \$50 million on a hydrofoil of which nothing has been

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heard for three years—it may be in orbit—and having squandered money on task forces and wars on this and that all over the country, is to cut back on Indian health payments and services. This is perhaps the most iniquitous move in a sordid series of incompetent blunders by this government. Imagine having squandered money for five years—not like drunken sailors because no drunken sailor ever had that much—and having them now come along and say, that, apart from the average poor people, the Indians must pay! Who could be more poor in this country than that group of citizens?

The Indian has been getting too much, they say. We cannot afford to have these Indians getting sick and asking for medicines. We made them wards of the state. We took away their independence and we placed them under the almighty department of Indian affairs. We have made them bureaucratic pawns but we refuse to allow them to get ill, hungry or jobless because we will no longer pay. This is the all-seeing wisdom of the most heartless government in our history; and they talk about compassion. What a hollow ring that word has coming from this government. We are now going to soak the Indians.

Of course, we are already soaking the poor with the \$120 cutoff, which must not be allowed to inconvenience the rich. We had the 5 per cent surcharge last session which was rejected by parliament. Then we had the 3 per cent surcharge, and now we have a 2 per cent surcharge. We had a budget in the spring and one in the fall. Then we had no budget for 14 months. Now we have another budget in the fall, which means we will have another budget in the spring. In spite of this the government attempt to pass themselves off as fiscal experts. Let me say this government is fiscally unfit.

An hon. Member: How do you spell that?

Mr. Nielsen: I do not know how to spell it, but I know what I would give to cure it.

We have rural poverty with new frontiers of science in the space age. We should be opening up the north and we should have a clear cut and intelligent defence policy. We should have a policy stimulating national development. These are matters the government has failed to recognize. It has written off the needs of our major cities and industries.

This government has sent the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) on a junketing charade from coast to coast. He is now in the