

citizens fought back so hard that the Government ran away and did not even place the legislation before us that it had announced. Now the Government has decided that kids cannot defend themselves so well, so the Government is going after the kids. A good many senior citizens in Spadina are among the hundreds and hundreds who have signed petitions on this point. I know them by their names and addresses. They perhaps feel that the kids deserve defence. They may also feel that if the Government gets away with attacking the kids this year, it might go after the senior citizens' pensions again.

● (1120)

Second, the Government should withdraw the Bill because it reflects a loss of faith in Canada. In Canada, Mr. Speaker, we are losing faith in providing for children. While parents individually will give all they can and endure all they can for their children, the country is cutting back the money for health, for education and for social housing.

The same Party that governs in Ottawa now in the decades when it governed in Ontario encouraged adult only apartments, apartments where children are forbidden, outlawed. The Conservative Government of Ontario repeatedly refused to address that injustice with human rights legislation.

A country that says we are too poor to provide for our children clearly has no faith in its future. Therefore, this Bill should be withdrawn.

The Bill should be withdrawn also because it is hypocritical and unjust. This same Government has increased hand-outs to the rich, rich corporations and rich individuals, with billions of dollars of tax giveaways and grants, while trying to squeeze money out of the children of the country.

This Government preaches user-pay, but it does not want to pay for the things that it uses. Right here on the Hill, secretaries, assistants, waitresses and other staff, who are underpaid by any general standard, are charged \$395 a month if they want to bring a child to the day care centre on the Hill.

Mr. Malone: What about our *Hansard* reporters? Look after them too.

Mr. Heap: The Government says that a mother who wants to work for the Government must pay \$395 to the Government to look after her child, yet the Government does not want to pay her a salary that would cover the cost. The Government wants the poor to pay the expenses of the rich. That is hypocritical—

An Hon. Member: That is you.

Mr. Heap: —and the hypocrisy is reflected in this legislation.

Finally, I am asking the Government to withdraw this Bill because it is pushing it through with indecent haste.

I come to Clause 15(1) which will give the Minister the power to declare a missing child dead. The Minister does not know what he is talking about, of course, and is not required

by law to know what he is talking about. The Minister decides to save \$31.50 a month—

Mr. Epp (Provencher): No. That is what you pay.

Mr. Heap: —for the deficit by telling parents: "Forget it. Your child is dead", and by ordering the insurance company to stop searching, to stop funding a search for a child, to pay the claim instead and to send a death certificate, probably after three months. It is not clear from the unclear wording of the Act just what exactly is intended, but it gives the Minister wide discretion to tell parents, "Forget your child. Stop looking for him. He is dead. I am not going to pay family allowance anymore for your telephone calls and letters you have to pay for to search for your child". That point has not been dealt with in consultation with the parents concerned or by the child find group. It is simply an arbitrary decision. It is such a mean one, Mr. Speaker. It is mean to pick not only on the children but on the parents who are shocked and damaged by the fact that their child is missing, and then to give them a further blow by saying: "Forget it. Your child is dead. We are ending our payments".

Mr. Thacker: Your abortion policy is not very kind.

Mr. Heap: That is a sole decision of the Government to attack the living in the name of the dead, the dead being the money that is owed to the banks by the Government. That money is not live stuff. It is not live people. It is dead stuff. At best it is the result of the past work of this country. This Government is willing to attack the parents and perhaps even the still surviving child by an act of ultimate meanness that makes pre-Christmas Scrooge look like Santa Claus. The Government is going to cut \$31.50 a month from the family that is struggling to find its missing child. That is not just mean, that is sick. A Government that will do that is sick.

Mr. Thacker: You have forgotten about the child tax credit.

Mr. Heap: A Government and its back-benchers, who like to prate and preach against abortion but will attack the living children in that way, are sick or worse than sick.

I plead with the Government to withdraw the whole Bill, but at least if the Government does not have the good conscience to withdraw the whole Bill, then let it withdraw Clause 15(1). That is the section empowering the Minister to tell parents of children who are missing when the Minister does not know the facts that their child is dead and that there will be no more search and no more money to pay for telephone calls. I plead with the Government to withdraw the whole Bill, but if not, then let it at least withdraw Clause 15(1).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp).

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will not speak for very long. I have decided to speak on Clause 2 to repeat what has already been discussed concerning Clauses 4 to 9. I do so because practically every-