

That is not the way Parliament should work. The hon. member from Peel spoke earlier. He is always an admirer of a system that is democratic in process. What is so democratic about that? First it did not want to allow witnesses and we had to force witnesses on to this government. Then it limited the witnesses. All the witnesses were heard within one week. Then majority rules. That is part of the column. That is part of the six pillars. That is part of it.

The second pillar is privatization. No more is there any faith in those enterprises that Canadians built with their own initiative and with their taxes. The industries they built were all sold off. All of those will end up either off the books or in some large corporation's belly.

The third pillar was the attack on universality, the entrenching of selfishness. The recent UI change—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. It is time for the five-minute question or comment period.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have heard the remarks of my colleague and want to use this occasion to ask him a question about fairness in government policy.

• (1720)

A little earlier this afternoon I had to absent myself from the Chamber, having received a phone call from a constituent in distress. This woman living in my constituency phoned me. She is the mother of two children, unemployed and the sole support. She makes from a combination of mother's allowance and the child benefit, baby bonus for lack of a better name, something like \$17,900 a year. She was telling me today that she had not received the advance child tax credit this year because she makes "too much money". I verified this with Revenue Canada and in fact that is true, not that she makes too much money but that is in fact the correct interpretation. Apparently someone who makes more than \$17,200 a year as a sole support mother with two children, someone who receives straight mother's allowance, in other words someone on social assistance, is apparently too rich to get this government benefit.

Would my colleague not agree with me that this has to be the height of unfairness, that nothing could possibly be worse than to tantalize someone on social assistance by telling them that there is a program for them, only then to tell the poorest of the poor that they are too rich

to receive the program which apparently was designed for them to start with?

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question. That is the fourth pillar of Tory hell: the question of taxation.

Notice how very tough the Tories are on the poor: the member's constituent is making too much money, but lo and behold she does not have a box at the SkyDome for which she is paying rent and which she can write-off on her income tax. She does not have, I will bet dollars on doughnuts, a three-martini lunch. I am sure she does not have an overseas shell operation of her corporation where she can avoid paying taxes in Canada. I am sure she has not set up a trust under the 1971 trust protection fund whereby she can protect all the profits she has made in a trust for future generations of her family. I am sure she does not have all that. If she were very wealthy then she would be the friend of the Tories and therefore she would be protected. However she is poor so she has this trickle down approach. Hopefully if they can feed the lion up at the top then some of this might trickle down to her.

In the meantime, all the forces of Revenue Canada make an interpretation of things like she makes too much money, just cause and all other things that are applied to the poor.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, when I heard my colleague from the New Democratic Party talk about the SkyDome boxes, I could not resist the opportunity to put in a pitch for all of us from Toronto who are opposed to the NDP selling off the stadium at a price that is really about one-fifth of its value.

By the way I share his view on the SkyDome boxes. I understand where he is coming from there, but the SkyDome itself is a tourism instrument. We use it for trade shows. People come into our city from not just from the Toronto area but from Buffalo and all over the United States. Right now they go into restaurants and hotels and there is lots of spin-off business. This can all be quantified.

The danger that we see in privatization is that all of a sudden we are going to go from a \$5 Coca-Cola to a \$10 Coca-Cola because the people who are going to end up taking over this SkyDome are going to be more interested in getting their money out right away. I was wondering if the NDP would use its influence to slow that process down a bit.