

Government Orders

I do not apologize for one minute for mentioning this possibility. People are paying taxes and people are on UI already. We are doing nothing for them. How do we think we make them feel better by doing less? The answer is that you make them feel rotten. It is time we developed a passion for this. Some of us represent constituencies where 30, 40, 50 or 60 per cent of the people are looking for some sign of help. Absolutely nobody is responding and saying they are sorry. Tough.

All of us here have a real obligation. We may feel sorry but we get paid. Every Canadian knows who gets paid. We get good money from those Canadians yet we are not able to do anything for them. It is with great apology that I have to go back to my constituency and tell the people in Winnipeg I am sorry, but I cannot convince them to help you. It is a horrible feeling. It is a horrible feeling when the government has been able to help others, bail out economic projects it should never have been involved in, or in the case of Ontario, help out a major aircraft builder when it can give people on social assistance only 2 per cent.

What kind of society begins to set that up? The people who have decried that for generations, turn around and choose the corporations over the people on social assistance the first opportunity they get. That is what makes Canadians crazed. That is what drives them into other parties and other forums. They want some semblance that people here are listening.

The sixth recommendation coming from our report, and again we have tried to get this economy started immediately, is that the federal government announce its intention to have an accelerated job creation program for students and youth in place by the summer of 1992.

The cashless student is becoming a focal point of the younger generation. They are not able to find summer work and are facing tuition increases somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent compounded annually. Access to programs they want are severely limited. They are forced to extend their programming over four or five years, which took many of us in another generation three years to complete. This is slow impoverishment. This is a slow death for students. What they need is work.

In the 1970s the Liberal government responded with several innovative programs. Students enjoyed working and had an income. They went to school and participated in the work force to become ready for the economy. This government does not want students to get ready for the economy, yet it turns around and talks about training and the competitive society. How do you get trained if nobody has a job or income for you? The answer is that you do not. You get limited to a very small percentage of the Canadian population which can afford to play by these rules. You need a level playing field. You need the chance for students to have access to jobs and support so they can get on with their education. We have no room for them in this Conservative-driven economy. There is no job creation taking place. There is a responsibility to help people find work.

There is no use speaking about this in May. You have to start thinking about it now. You have to include money for students in the budget. There is no plan coming forward. There is no consultation with students. It is time we came forward with some ideas to get this economy going.

Briefly, there are two other recommendations. We want to see the House of Commons deal more directly with issues of aboriginal poverty. In cities across western Canada in particular, the issue of aboriginal poverty is tied to the decline of funds being made available through CAP. They must be able to get some money to these families. In the report of the Conservative majority, one-half page dealt with aboriginal poverty.

Finally we have recommended, as we have several times, that the federal minimum wage be raised to \$5 effective last January 1 and raised another dollar effective January 1, 1993. Historically the federal government has set the standard, and in this case as in so many cases, it is the bottom of the barrel.

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, as we stand again to debate the cap on CAP, it is with the same strange sense of *déjà vu*. Only a year ago we were debating legislation which we in the New Democratic Party felt was the beginning of the end of Canada's social programs. Then we were debating Bill C-69 which legislated drastic cuts to health and post-secondary education, and contained the original cap on the Canada Assistance Plan.