

ning of a 10-year campaign against all child poverty in Canada.

As one colleague said in the House yesterday, the government has yet to put forth a clear plan of action on the elimination of child poverty in Canada. The young people who signed this petition were most concerned that they had not seen a clear plan of action on the part of the Government of Canada and the Prime Minister.

This Liberal minority report, among its many well constructed recommendations, suggests that the federal government withdraw Bill C-32 because it is a very dangerous bill.

There are three main reasons for submitting this report. First, the report by the subcommittee on poverty, as accepted by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health and Welfare, Social Affairs, Seniors and the Status of Women, fails to deal immediately with child poverty. Two, the report that I just mentioned fails to inform the House of Commons and Canadians of the extent to which federal government policies have directly and dramatically increased poverty in every region and city throughout Canada. Three, the government's report says there are measures that can be immediately taken to ensure that the attack on child poverty is not deferred for another decade.

Fifty per cent of the people who use food banks are children. Many of these children could be helped more directly in the school system. We believe that the federal government should participate with provincial governments, through the boards of education, in the provision of nutritionally balanced food within the school system.

• (1650)

Changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act introduced by this government have radically altered the nature of the unemployment insurance program and have affected many people across the country. This government should recognize the negative impact of the recent change to the Unemployment Insurance Act and immediately restore entrance requirements and duration of entitlements to pre-Bill C-21 levels.

I recognize that my time is up. There are many more things that I would have liked to have had the opportuni-

ty to say. However, I thank you for the privilege and the capability of standing in this House. I encourage the government to study the report by the hon. member for Winnipeg North and implement this recommendation and the others included within it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak against Bill C-32 which will put a cap on the Canada Assistance Program.

Curiously enough, the year before Centennial year, in 1966, the government of the day made the social commitment to match the provinces' contribution to the Canada Assistance Program. Curiously enough, as I was saying, 25 years later, one year before the 125th anniversary, the present Conservative government has decided to cap the Canada Assistance Program. It makes you wonder. Is the Reform Party so popular that the Conservative government would want to bring its policies in line with theirs? Here is the Reform Party's policy on this problem:

[*English*]

"The Reform Party calls for a new social services order with government's role in social services reduced and non-governmental agencies, business, volunteers and families assuming a greater share of the responsibility to care for those who cannot care for themselves".

[*Translation*]

Does the Conservative government want to move in that direction by bringing its programs in line with those of the Reform Party of Canada? I ask government members whether they have any respect for the poor or for the young. Do they not have a social conscience? I am being rudely heckled by members on the other side. I know it's Christmas and that they want to go to the Speaker's party, but I would ask them to listen a bit.

[*English*]

"Eighty-five per cent of CAP spending falls under its provisions for social assistance which include social assistance for persons in need, including single parents, the aged, the disabled, the unemployed, the low income families and children in care, care in homes for special care such as homes for the aged, child care families and transition houses for battered women".