

### *Government Orders*

I want to draw to the attention of the parliamentary secretary because he asks for something substantive. I am going to give him some of the statistics that they gave us from an impact study that they passed out surreptitiously without much notice three months after we asked for it in this House, impact studies of this Bill C-21. Even though they tried to hide some figures they did admit finally two months after they had said that only 300,000 people would be affected negatively throughout the country according to their impact studies based on StatsCan figures, we are looking at better than 770,000 Canadian who will be impacted negatively as a result of this proposed legislation.

I am not talking about figures that I derived from StatsCanada. I am not talking about figures that the minister says come from the CLC and other labour organizations and therefore they must, department's own statistics. The department's own statistics show that, in terms of the percentages of claimants who will suffer reductions to unemployment insurance in the province of Newfoundland 41 per cent will suffer reductions. These are the government's figures.

In P.E.I., 46 per cent of all claimants will suffer reductions. In Nova Scotia, 31.5 per cent of all claimants will suffer reductions. In New Brunswick, 40 per cent of all claimants will suffer reductions. In Manitoba, 49 per cent of all claimants will suffer reductions. Surely, this is a vindictive rather than a constructive approach to labour development. I say vindictive because those same figures reflect just a little bit more heavily on the general population. When we take a look at the percentage that claimants will suffer as a result of a new benefit schedule and new entrance requirements we see 36 per cent in Newfoundland, 39.3 per cent in P.E.I., 33 per cent in New Brunswick, 33.1 per cent in Manitoba. Those people as claimants are a percentage of the total population. We are not talking about people in a vacuum. That will give an indication to all hon. members just how significant the unemployment insurance program is as an income maintenance program and as a program to address the regional disparities of this country.

In Newfoundland those who claim benefits from unemployment insurance, a program into which they have made their proper payments, represent 19.67 per cent of the entire population. That is one in five man,

woman and child is going to have a negative impact as a result of the application Bill C-21.

When one considers that the average is better than \$1,200 per claimant, I ask members to think in terms of the impact, in a macro sense, as I said earlier, not in a micro sense. What happens when one out of every five residents of Newfoundland suffers an average of better than \$1,200 in annual income reduction? What does that do to the disposable income of the residents of such a province? What does that do to their purchasing power? What does it do to their ability to purchase more in the market-place and to stimulate more growth? I think the answer is obvious.

It would be okay if it was only an isolated case in Newfoundland. But in Prince Edward Island, 17.43 per cent of every man, woman and child will suffer reductions. In Nova Scotia, just a little bit better, 11.25 per cent; in New Brunswick, 14.82 per cent; in Quebec, 10.5 per cent of the population will feel the pinch of this particular bill.

What is really sad about this is that the government in the committee hearings and in this House, in the press, and in the media, has refused to engage members on this side of the House in debate. It has been saying out loud that we have to clean up the act of all those claimants. I said earlier in this debate, that if the government wants to punish those who abuse, punish them. If it wants to be severe with them, be severe. But do not ruin the system, tear apart the structure and punish every single man, woman and child in this country because of a few abusers. We do not know whether those abusers are individuals or corporations.

In terms of justification, let me give an indication since I read some figures about eastern Canada and the maritimes being the repositories of this Tory government's vengeance. Let us see the reaction in terms of statistics. Remember they come from the government's impact studies. Only 5.3 per cent of all claimants of the unemployment insurance system from Newfoundland actually did so because they quit their job without just cause. That tells me that residents of Newfoundland will accept a job if there is one available. They do not go some place else willy-nilly. In P.E.I. it is only 6.7 per cent of all claimants.

We are talking about an over-all global picture of better than \$1 million per annum. We can check the exact figures in a moment for the sake of the parliamentary secretary. But in P.E.I. as a percentage it is only 6.7 per cent. By contrast, in wealthy Ontario, the great