

scheme evidently does not apply to families on social assistance. Oh no, it does not! It does not apply to those who receive unemployment insurance.

**Senator Gigantès:** The undeserving poor.

**Senator Hébert:** Absolutely, and adding insult to injury, the extra money given to average families, about \$1,300, is actually less than if the government had not tampered with programs over the last eight years.

Obviously this new plan was devised to help the sagging fortunes of the Conservative government. By providing only the appearance of a benefit increase, the government hopes to curry the electoral favour of a broad cross-section of the Canadian population. How cynical! How manipulative!

**Senator Gigantès:** How Tory!

**Senator Hébert:** I wanted to say "How wrong!" but you said it for me: "How Tory!"

Canadians have had their fill of these methods over the last eight years. No amount of tinkering nor fudging of figures can revive this government. Canadians will see through the manipulation and electioneering of the government, and relegate it to where it properly belongs.

Moreover, the partial deindexation of benefits and the complete lack of indexation of the threshold amounts will gradually erode the benefit amounts as well as reduce the number of families entitled to benefits. Had the government seriously considered helping the poor, it would have proceeded differently. It would have indexed benefits fully to the cost of living; it would have included an increase in benefits for families on social assistance and unemployment insurance; it would have converted the child care expense deduction into a tax credit and thereby preserved the universality of the family allowance program. Instead of an improved system, we have a program that is far less than a shadow of its former self.

Moreover, the government has chosen to drastically alter the course plotted by successive governments for social programs since their inception in the early years of this century. Therefore, I must conclude that this bill can only prove harmful to the social fabric of Canada, and that in all good conscience, senators must vote against it.

In closing, I might add that the underlying philosophy implicit in this bill is one of scorn for the people. In his book, *The History of Western Philosophy*, Bertrand Russell emphasized that the oligarchs of ancient Greece had a motto, which went roughly as follows:

The people are my enemy, and I shall devise all I can to harm them.

In the same vein, Russell noted that modern Conservatives ought at least to have the same courage in expressing their beliefs.

With Bill C-80, the Conservative government heaps only scorn and contempt on the people of Canada. However, unlike  
[Senator Hébert.]

the oligarchs of Greece, it does not have the courage of its convictions.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Leader of the Opposition):** Honourable senators, the scorn Senator Hébert has demonstrated that this government has for the people it obviously has also for Parliament. This is just one of the examples of that scorn. He has placed on the record our objections to the legislation —

**Senator Murray:** It has three times as many Tories here to hear your speech.

**Senator Frith:** Just listen to what you did in this case.

**Senator Murray:** We are all here to listen to you. Look around.

**Senator Frith:** I was looking at the particular person who was speaking, namely, the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I am looking at him.

**Senator Murray:** Look at the Tories who are here to listen to you.

**Senator Lynch-Staunton:** There goes your deputy.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Oh, oh!

**Senator Frith:** I notice that is becoming a typical Conservative reaction. When anyone in the press asks the Prime Minister a question, the answer they usually get is, "Ha, ha, ha!" Watch for it all through the referendum debate. That is his answer to most of the questions that the people and the press ask him.

**Senator LeBlanc:** He caught it from Joe Clark.

**Senator Barootes:** Table your speech and we will have it published.

**Senator Frith:** In his remarks, Senator Hébert focused on what the government has done. He described how this heartless government does not care whether hundreds of thousands of families use their income to raise children or to buy toasters. What was as bad as what they did was how it was done. I want to focus on that for a moment because I sense that the government wants to run a bulldozer through the Senate with this legislation, as it did in the House of Commons.

Here is the story of how the government is doing what it is doing—and I intend to look at three aspects of the process. I say it is important to us here in the Senate as we start debate on this bill because I suspect that the government will want to do the same here. The tale turns out to be a tragedy in three acts. The first is the history of the children's benefits, the second is the Government's white paper on children's benefits, and the third is how the government went about what might euphemistically be described as "guiding its package through the other place."

First the history: As Senator Hébert explained, Bill C-80 eliminates three programs. First, the refundable child tax credit introduced by the Trudeau Liberal government in 1979. Second, the Family Allowance Program introduced by the