

*Government Orders*

ment insurance bills. The attack on ordinary Canadians goes on and on and on.

I was hoping that members opposite would have realized the folly of pursuing the course that they have plotted, the course that is shown so clearly as set out in Bill C-32 and the bill prior to that, Bill C-69. Bill C-69 was the coupling, the cap on the Canada Assistance Plan to the 5 per cent level and the cutbacks in the Established Programs Financing to post-secondary education and health care. These went hand in hand. Now they have been separated and Bill C-32 is the continuation of the cap on the Canada Assistance Plan for a further two years.

It has been properly pointed out by the last speaker from Newfoundland that while it supposedly hits the so-called rich provinces of Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia, the point here is not whether it is a have or have-not province, it is the stark fact that what they are doing is once again hitting out at the poor, those who have been impoverished over a period of time, many of them over the last little while. When I talk about the free trade agreement and some of the legislation, there appears to be a constant eroding of our social programs, a constant eroding of the direction that this country has taken over the 125 years since the BNA Act was signed in 1987. I would suggest it is a direction that we in Canada have taken for granted, that we have been proud of as a country. We look at our neighbours to the south and say: "We have come a different direction. We are a different people. We have things within our country, legislation that very clearly makes us stand out, programs that you people look forward perhaps one day in being lucky enough to have".

I have watched rather disheartened by the erosion of all of what I have seen happening over the last while. Bill C-32 is not necessarily an attack on the wealthier provinces, or those provinces that pay more in equalization payments, it is an attack on the people within those provinces.

The fact that they have larger populations, that they have better incomes, does not take away from the fact that they are provinces to which people migrate from other provinces. If we look at the migration between provinces, we see that some of the poorer provinces, in spite of the people not wanting to leave, they are forced to leave. Where do they go? They go to the provinces where they might have the opportunity of finding jobs.

This summer I picked up a person hitchhiking along the road from Newfoundland. He was working in my constituency as a fruit picker. His message was clear: "I'm a Newfoundlander. I love my province but this federal government hasn't done anything to help me get a job and ensure that I can live in my home province, the province that I love. I have to leave the province and look for work. The only work that I can find at this time to keep any food on the table is to pick fruit", an occupation totally foreign to a person coming from Newfoundland. He liked it in British Columbia but he wanted to be home. He wanted to be near his family. He wanted to be in the province where he was brought up. Because of the policies of this government, he had to move from the east coast to the west coast and take a job that was at best seasonal.

Because of the new regulations set out in the Unemployment Insurance Act he would have to work a greater number of weeks for a smaller amount of benefit. He was not sure that he would be able to get an adequate amount of time in fruit picking and other odd jobs throughout the Okanagan to get unemployment insurance.

Where does he turn if he cannot get unemployment insurance or if his unemployment insurance runs out, which it is assured to do before he is able to get another job? He turns in our province of British Columbia to the Ministry of Social Services and Housing. He certainly was a man of some pride and did not like to have what he called a handout. He was used to making it on his own. Yet, this government has forced him to go hat in hand to the government and admit that he cannot make it on his own. It is not a nice prospect for anybody.

• (1710)

What is happening through Bill C-32? I have talked about the migration from other provinces and certainly to the province of British Columbia where the weather is known to be good. In the summertime we have fruit-picking jobs, transient jobs that one can pick up. It encourages those from other provinces who cannot get work to move into provinces where perhaps the winters are a little less severe than in some other areas, where they have the opportunity of picking up jobs and getting a little bit more money for themselves.