

The Budget—Mr. Nystrom

Mr. Nystrom: That is the Conservative way. That is the real Conservative agenda. It is the agenda of Thomas d'Aquino and of the BCNI.

The Government is sitting where it does because big business bought the election. Big business spent millions of dollars buying the election on free trade. Now big business is calling the shots. Now the Government is implementing its agenda on social programs and cut-backs for ordinary people. It is collecting the money from the ordinary citizens of the country and not the corporations. That is the real truth about the Party across the way.

I do not expect millionaire's row out here to understand. I do not expect these wealthy Conservatives who make these policies to understand. The Minister of Finance, the Minister for International Trade and the Prime Minister do not understand the ordinary folks. I am sure that the Minister of Finance would not know a poor family if he ran into one.

I am very proud of the history of the CCF and the NDP when it comes to social programs. It was Tommy Douglas back in the 1940s who brought in a hospitalization plan. It was Tommy Douglas who brought in medicare in Canada. It was Stanley Knowles who sits at the Table and J. S. Woodsworth who are responsible for bringing in unemployment insurance and family allowances into Canada. It was our Party with David Lewis in 1972-74 that assisted on the indexation of social programs. The guiding principle for the social programs throughout history is universality. We now have a Conservative Party which is trying to end universality and destroy the social programs. I say that enough is enough.

The only time you will notice, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberals are progressive is when they are in a minority situation controlled by the CCF or controlled by the NDP. I was told this by an old friend of mine, the Hon. Member from Assiniboia.

What is the Conservative Party doing with unemployment insurance? It wants to privatize it. It wants to give the public a chance. In Saskatchewan it is called public participation. It wants the employees to pay. It wants the employers to pay. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the Unemployment Insurance Commission being run by the corporations of the country? Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, Thomas d'Aquino running the Unemployment Insurance Commission?

An Hon. Member: Scary, very scary.

Mr. McDermid: No!

Mr. Nystrom: The Hon. Member will see this happening. The real agenda is to harmonize our program with the United States. It is really the Free Trade Agreement that is calling the shots. It is really an attack on the underprivileged, the dispossessed, the unemployed and the poor. Their premiums will go up under the Conservative Party.

Mr. McDermid: What a crock!

Mr. Nystrom: It is also an attack on small business. It is also an attack on the poorer regions of the country such as Newfoundland where the people of Newfoundland and the small business of Newfoundland cannot afford to pay higher premiums under unemployment insurance. It is no wonder that a Newfoundland election was called before the Budget. If it was after the Budget there would not be a single Conservative elected in the Province of Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: There are some very excited and wealthy Torontonians across the way. They do not like to hear about ordinary people being taxed. They do not like to hear about the big tax attack of the Conservative Party. Members of the Conservative Party know that they will be socking it to ordinary Canadians, to the ordinary farmers, and to the small businesses of the country. They know that because of the reduction of transfer payments to the provinces there will be cut-backs in medical care for sick people.

Mr. McDermid: There is no reduction.

Mr. Nystrom: It is a reduction of 1 per cent.

Mr. McDermid: There is no reduction. They will be getting more money this year.

Mr. Nystrom: There is a reduction of 1 per cent in Established Programs Financing in this Budget. It is a reduction from the formula that was in place which will amount to close to \$300 million this year. Next year there will be another cut in what should have been there.

I tell the Hon. Member to talk to the provinces. He should talk to his ideological soul mate, Bill Vander Zalm of British Columbia. He will tell him exactly the same thing.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!