

the case today, benefited the people who were harvesting and processing the fish.

The other point that he raised concerned boat building. There was also a tradition in Newfoundland of a number of small boat building yards. There was a fair amount of local enterprise. There is still a fair amount of that now, but with the downturn of the fisheries there is not the same demand for new boats.

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I want to contribute to this debate on Bill C-60 in its context as part of a process begun 10 years ago by the Liberal government, and continued and extended by this government, of restricting the agreed share of funding from Ottawa to assist the health programs, the post-secondary education programs, welfare and other social costs in the provinces of Canada. The programs are meant for all of Canada, but they are applied differently according to different circumstances.

It has been pointed out by some of my colleagues how much all the provinces have suffered, but certain provinces have suffered even more by the unilateral decision of the federal government to cut back its share. Federal ministers can get up and parrot the fact that they are paying more money this year than last year but they know full well that this payment has less purchasing power than last year's payment had, and much less purchasing power than the payments 10 years ago had.

I do not want to belabour that point. It has been made well enough. There has been a unilateral cutback by this government.

I want to deal with the question of who pays for those cuts. We have heard the government talk about the deficit by saying that it is concerned with the future of Canada. It does not want our children to be indebted. What we have not heard the government say is that it is concerned with the children of Canada who, if they live into the future, may or may not carry a burden of debt. If they have healthy life they may or may not have the ability in body, mind and spirit to pay those debts.

I want to refer to some of the situations in Trinity—Spadina and metro Toronto generally. In Trinity—Spadina I have been meeting with some unemployed people, including people who have not worked because of the free trade deal. As a direct and explicit result of the free trade agreement with the United States 600 men and women were dismissed permanently from the Inglis washing machine factory in my riding. That is not by any means the only factory. There are many clothing facto-

ries which have been closed permanently. Many others have permanently cut back in their employment. Ten years ago the recession meant that one-third of the jobs lost were lost permanently and now two-thirds of the jobs are lost permanently.

• (1600)

The government told us for a couple of years that there was no recession, then it immediately switched to saying there was a bit of a recession but we were coming out of it. According to the government we have been coming out of it for the last year and a half.

The unemployed people in Trinity—Spadina do not see that coming out. What they see is that many of them have been without a job for two years, with no prospects of a job today, certainly not where they used to work with the skills that they used to use to make money for the corporations that employed them. They have very little other prospects either, certainly not if they have families to feed.

I can think of one man who has been in Canada 20 years and worked 18 of those years. For two years, because of the unemployment insurance arrangement, he has been on training for about a year and a half. His training is about to come to an end because of the restrictions of unemployment insurance benefits that this government enacted. When his training ends this spring he does not know what is ahead. There are tens of thousands in situations similar to his.

Those people are some of the ones who are paying in their lives, in their bodies, in their children's health for this cutback enacted by the federal government. They are also paying for the free trade agreement, for the high interest rates over many years, for the high Canadian dollar. These policies wiped out many of the garment factories on Spadina Avenue that had been successfully selling to the United States before this government pumped up the Canadian dollar as an under the table cousin of the free trade agreement so that the United States, with the tariff barriers coming down, would not suffer from the import of clothing made in Toronto and other parts of Canada.

In Toronto the number of people on welfare has jumped since the beginning of this year by 8.2 per cent. In just a little over three months it has gone up 8.2 per cent. It is not because these people want to be on welfare. It is not because they do not want to work. These are people who were working and who believed they would always work until retirement age. As the man