

and thanks them for the contributions they have made over many long years.

So much for so-called sacred trusts. So much for the believability of the Government. So much for how much trust Nova Scotians will have in the Government's promises next time around.

Family allowance too will be clawed back, again in those families whose income is in excess of \$50,000 a year. I wonder how many couples with a combined income of \$50,000 plus, who have three children, a mortgage and all the other attendant bills that modern families accrue, consider themselves wealthy, especially when one adds the surtax and sales tax to the claw back.

This same couple has received little or no help from the Government when it comes to caring for their children. They may, along with their wealthier counterparts, get some respite with tax credits, but tax credits do not create child care spaces and neither does the Government, for all its fancy promises. Tax credits do not establish quality child care centres where none exist. Tax credits do not protect parents and children desperate for care and forced to make catch-up arrangements.

Recently I spoke to a working mother who was fortunate enough to be able to pay for child care if she could find it. Unfortunately, there was no centre near her home or place of work. Consequently, she arranged for her babysitting in her neighbourhood.

There are many women who provide this kind of care and who do it well. But it is not regulated or supervised and, consequently, we cannot be sure that all care given in this haphazard manner is the kind and level of care that we must insist upon for Canadian children. It is not regulated, it is not supervised, and therefore it is fraught with dangers.

Indeed, for my friend it was. One busy morning—and most working mothers will recognize the kind of busy morning—she was attempting to get her 18-month old ready, her four-year old ready and herself ready for work, nursery school and the babysitter. Her four-year old son refused to get dressed. He sat down in the middle of the floor and began to cry. She first tried to order him out of this tantrum but then realized that this was not a minor development but a serious matter. She discovered that this normal, active four-year old boy was being shut up in a closet for two hours every afternoon. His infant sister took a nap and the babysitter could not

be bothered having an active four-year old running around. He spent two hours while his sister slept locked in a dark closet. An exception, some may say. I hope so, but I fear not.

There are mothers and some fathers who work hard on subsistence wages. One of my constituents worked from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The nearest child care centre opens at 8 a.m. It was impossible for her to deliver her child at 8 a.m. and be at work at 8.30 a.m. There was no babysitter available. She was forced to quit her job and live on social assistance. We can only guess at the blows to her self esteem, since they are not even counted in this kind of equation. What did the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) say to her? He said: "Sorry, maybe we can get to it before the end of the mandate".

What about the mother who chooses to stay at home? It appears from some of its other policy decisions that the Government believes this is the desired position for Canadian mothers. What about this woman? If her husband makes in excess of \$50,000 he will be forced to pay the claw back even though, since its inception, the money for family allowance has been deemed to belong to the mother. Here is a tacit move to joint income when a married couple cannot file a joint return in this country. I guess it is a question of: "What is yours is mine and what is mine is the Government's".

For ten years as a family lawyer, I saw women trapped in brutal marriages and I saw them save the family allowance from month to month for five or six years to accumulate enough cash to escape truly horrific situations. These women were not slum dwellers. They were not depraved. They were women who might even live in the same sort of neighbourhood as the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), or the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Beatty), but they saved that money because it was the only money to which they had access, and the only way they could escape from situations totally untenable. Now that the husband in these situations must pay the tax, what extra pressures will be brought to bear on those women who already live in the twilight world of fear and abuse?

I am proud to be an Atlantic Canadian. I am proud to be a Nova Scotian, but I join all those in my region who protest the battering our people are taking. The murderous tax grab on the middle-income worker goes on. In fact, in Halifax today, small music schools fear extinction because of the sales tax, and parents face the situation