

*Government Orders*

are talking about a nation or a little business or a homeowner.

This year 1989 is the time for all of us in the Chamber who care about this country to say: "It is time to cut expenditures, it is time to raise taxes. It is time to get the debt under control. If you are listening to any other message, you are listening to charlatans who want to drag you into a bigger and bigger pothole, where you are going to drown."

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the hon. member's comments on this legislation. He said that there are 209,000 Canadians who have a job today who did not have one before the Tory government took office. I would like to say to him that there are also 1.2 million children living in poverty in Canada who should not be living in poverty. I would like also to bring to the attention of this House that yesterday while we all celebrated Thanksgiving, while we had a wonderful dinner with our families and shared the weekend with families and friends, thousands of Canadians volunteered their time at food banks collecting canned goods to distribute over the next few months. In Toronto alone, 2,000 volunteers collected 850,000 pounds of food.

The tragedy of this is that every month more and more Canadian children are joining those already living in poverty.

The Daily Bread food banks in Toronto feed 84,000 people. Of these, 17,000 are children; 6,000 are physically challenged and 4,000 are pensioners. Yet we have a government which says that fewer Canadians will be living in poverty.

The member said fewer Canadians are living on unemployment insurance. When the government says that fewer Canadians will be living on unemployment insurance, it means it because what it is going to do is kick those moms and dads off of unemployment insurance to ensure that more children are going to the food banks.

I would like to ask this government and members in the House to consider that what we have in Canada is institutionalized poverty. What we have in Canada is institutionalized food banks. We have a mean-spirited government that, in addition to this kind of taxation, is

introducing cuts in unemployment insurance, cuts in support to the family network, no child care, clawbacks in pensions and clawbacks in child allowance. Yet it is saying: "Look what a wonderful job we are doing in correcting the economy".

The hon. member who spoke before me talked about how hard one must work in government, assuming that those of us on the opposite side of the House do not work hard. Is this government planning to continue working very hard until all children in Canada are living in poverty, taking back as much as it can from the average Canadian, taking back as much as it can from working men and women to ensure that its corporate Bay Street buddies do not have to pay their share? That is what we are talking about. We are talking about who pays what share. We have not seen one step from this government to ensure that the profit-making corporations in this country pay their share. What we have is yet more taxation on those who are already overtaxed.

I noticed in my experience with the unemployment insurance committee that the government listens only to those to whom they want to listen in this country. I have received letters in from men and women in my riding who happen to share political views in terms of party affiliation with hon. members from the other side of the House.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** You mean Tories.

**Ms. Langan:** Tories, that is who I have received letters from. I have received letters from Tories who say: "This goes too far. We are tired of it, we are sick of it. We are not prepared to lose free enterprise to the Americans. We are not prepared to have our children taxed until there is no food available for them and they have to go to food banks. We are not prepared ourselves to be taxed and we are seriously considering where our political affiliation will lie in the future".

It may be that those people will not be coming to support the New Democratic Party. But what they will be doing is supporting a party that will indeed listen to them; be it the Reform party, be it the Christian Heritage party, be it any one of those parties.

**An Hon. Member:** The Liberal party.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** They listened to the Liberal party one time.