

There is no question that the health care system in our country would be reduced for those so much in need, especially those among our elderly who require medication and dental care services.

Child welfare payments would be curtailed. What will happen to these children when these cutbacks take effect? We have all heard in this House the overwhelming support from all sides about the need to protect the children in this country in every way, particularly economically.

Welfare services of all types will be hampered: adoption services, rehabilitation services such as life-skills training, services for the aged and physically and mentally disabled persons, homemakers, home support and similar services to individuals and families in emergency situations, or as an aid to independent living in our communities for seniors and the disabled.

I could go on and on to state in unequivocal terms what this type of legislation is doing to those people, not only in those three provinces but in all of Canada that will be seriously affected if this legislation is allowed to go through.

Let me state this in closing. If Canada is to stay unified, if Canada is to stay as one nation, if Canada is to stay together to differentiate between the provinces over economic issues that will certainly affect each and every citizen, not only in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario, but throughout this whole beautiful, wonderful country of ours, I implore this government today, in the spirit of the unity that we are trying to create, to withdraw this legislation and not bring it back until this recession period is over.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague from Thunder Bay for his remarks on how wrong it is to put this cap on the Canada Assistance Plan at this time.

As we mentioned yesterday, we are not just criticizing the government here, we are also trying to put forward some ideas that hopefully will put people back to work. As we put people back to work, there will be less need to even think of putting a cap on such a fundamental program as the Canada Assistance Plan which looks after the most disadvantaged.

### *Government Orders*

My question is to my colleague who has spent the last three years in this House doing some fabulous work in the area of transportation. He has seen all kinds of opportunities through our transportation systems and infrastructure where possibly we could invest in the human capital and in our infrastructure to put people back to work.

I wonder if he would be kind enough to enumerate to this House and to the people of Canada some ideas in the area of transportation which could put Canadians back to work if the government had the political will to do so.

• (1030)

**Mr. Comuzzi:** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood for his remarks with respect to how we can assist this country in putting forward a system for our infrastructure, particularly in transportation. I also thank him very much for his kind words about the work in transportation that I have done.

Let me answer my friend by saying that what Canada lacks is a national transportation policy that would extend all modes of transportation: rail, water, air and roads into an infrastructure that would cause this economy to come back to what it once was.

Let me talk for a moment about the roadway system. In my particular area, VIA Rail has been cancelled from Sudbury right through to Winnipeg. As a result, we do not have any passenger rail service, which is so vital to any area of this country, but particularly in northern Ontario. With the absence of passenger rail service on days like today when the planes are not flying, we only have one means of transportation, roads. It is with trucks and cars that people move back and forth in all of the communities in that particular area and I am sure it is synonymous with every other area in Canada.

What we find now, Mr. Speaker, is that the infrastructure of our roadway system is deteriorating to a point where we have more accidents on our roads than we have ever experienced before. This is due primarily to the fact that the roads are not maintained as well as they once were. Coupled with the fact that the roadways are taking the excess transportation that should have been going on railways, it means that we have huge trucks on the roads. We have an economy that is resource based and we have logging trucks and so on.