

The Government is simply out of control. It is a Government by the rich, of the rich and for the rich. There is no other way to describe it.

I now want to talk about the profits of banks. When the Canadian Commercial Bank went broke the Conservatives came up with \$800 million to bail it out. That was \$800 million of taxpayers' money which was used to bail out a private bank. I thought that the Tories were free enterprisers. I thought they believed that people have the God-given right to go broke. However, while they bailed out the bank another phenomenon developed. That phenomenon is known as the food bank. Under the Conservatives food banks are just like the bread lines of the 1930s. Yet Members opposite laugh. They think it is funny. The major newspaper in the City of Ottawa has a sign on the side of its trucks which states: "Give to the food bank", as if it were some institutionalized charity in which everyone should get involved. We did not have food banks 10 years ago.

If the food banks asked for \$800 million to bail them out so that people could eat, would the Government provide the money? The answer is no. Its priorities are mixed up. Financial institutions that go broke do not deserve any help from the Government. What the food banks should do is change their names. They should call themselves the Canadian Commercial Bank and then they will receive \$800 million to bail them out. What an indignity, what a loss of self-respect. Every day people line up for food while the Government speaks only for the rich and the large corporations and does not give a fig about ordinary people who are out of jobs, who need work, who need some succour and comfort.

Members opposite did not mention the food banks. They do not mention even a regret that the unemployed are suffering. There is not a word in the Budget about ordinary people who are stuck at the bottom end of the scale.

• (1250)

Yet in actual fact, people are losing ground economically because of the stupid fiscal policies that are geared toward only one sector: the rich. Let us look at the Government reports to get a frame of reference of what is happening in this country. I make reference to the labour force features, "Trend in Labour Income", September, 1988, of Statistics Canada. I am referring to page 97, just a quick quote based on the charts that are here. "Over a 13-year period"—four of the last of course have been under the Tories—"growth in wages and salaries did not keep pace with inflation as real average wages and adjusted salaries fell one per cent between 1975 and 1987. After adjusting by the Consumer Price Index,

seven of the 12 annual gains in wages and salaries have become losses".

These are the people who are being hit for more taxes. The statistics show that the average wage earner, men and women in this country, over the last 13 years have lost ground in disposable income, lost ground in terms of where they were 13 years ago, and what has happened is more taxes have been added.

Let us look at the impact of taxes on Canadians. Among the working poor, for a family earning \$24,000, the taxes between 1984 and 1988 went up under the Conservatives by 44 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Barrett: Forty-four per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Barrett: Is that good for the ordinary person in this country? For a person in a middle income group earning \$49,000 a year, the taxes went up 10 per cent.

Here is the pain, here is the suffering, here is the philosophical angst that the Tories have provided.

For an upper income family earning \$122,000 a year, under the first four years of the Tory Government the taxes went down by 5.9 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Barrett: This Government is geared toward serving the rich. Let us look at the over-all trend with the impact of this current Budget and incorporate it into 1984 to 1991. Let us go back to the working poor family earning \$24,000. With the impact of the new Budget, the working poor's tax increase will go up, in seven years with the old Tory budget and the present one, 60 per cent.

The middle income group, the people earning \$49,000 or less, their taxes will go up by 17 per cent. However, do not worry, folks, all the richies out there who are watching their money is being protected by a Government that protects the rich, all those over \$122,000 will have a decrease of 6.4 per cent of their share of taxes under this present Budget.

An Hon. Member: Shame on the Tories.

Mr. Barrett: Why does this come about? This comes about because this Government is inextricably bound to the vested interests of the non-competitive wealthy in this country. This is a Government that talks about free enterprise. This is a Government that is always harping about the business of initiative. This is a Government that also defers taxes. If a corporation that has massive profits defers taxes and borrows money to acquire a competing company in order to move into a monopoly