

Government Orders

welfare rolls in provinces. Provinces are going to be less able to cope with those problems because of these cuts.

The Government of Canada is creating a vicious circle out of which no one can escape. The people who will suffer the most are those who all Canadians want to protect the most—the sick, the poor, the handicapped, the people who need the services that are provided by many of those programs that are being cut by this legislation.

We are also taking a vicious cut at the young people in this country who understand now just how difficult things are going to be for them with the cutbacks to support for post-secondary education, the kinds of cutbacks we have seen in the employment programs for young people in the summer and the kinds of attacks we have seen on young people attending post-secondary institutions when there is a 3 per cent administrative charge being levied on their loan applications and that kind of thing.

It is important for all members to understand that if it is the government's policy to push Canada into a recession to satisfy Governor Crow's obsession with zero inflation, then surely we must be aware that there has to be programs to protect those Canadians who most need our help.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, this government will be remembered long after it no longer occupies the benches on the opposite side of the House. This is a government that will be remembered for oppressing the poor, women, aboriginal people and workers during its two terms in office. This government will be remembered as the government that slapped the muzzle on everyone who cried out "Enough!"—even members of the opposition.

• (1240)

It will be remembered as the government that even when Canadians told it formally, using every vehicle open to them through petitions, rallies and legislative hearings, refused to listen. This is the government that will be remembered for saying: "We've heard from Canadians". But it will also be the government that will be remembered for not saying: "But we didn't listen".

This is the government that when elected in 1984 set out to implement George Orwell's predictions in his book *1984*.

When the minister made his statement earlier he called on labour to exercise restraint in wages. He said that we do not want a return to the tragedies of the early 1980s. The tragedies in the early 1980s were not because of workers' wages. The tragedies in the early 1980s were because of poor economic policies on the part of both the Liberals and subsequently the Tories.

The early 1980s was when food banks started in this country—the first time since the depression. The early 1980s was when the labour movement had to develop unemployment action centres across this country to try and help working people, whether they were union or non-union, to struggle and survive because of bad economic policy. None of us want to go back to the early 1980s.

Mark my words, Mr. Speaker, the course on which the government has embarked is a sure blueprint to ensure that food banks will become the fastest-growing banks in the country, and that unemployment action centres will have to be revived and rebuilt to look after those who have been dispossessed and ignored by this government.

I would like to ask the minister—I am sorry he is gone—to point out to me one welfare payment that has increased the inflation rate of this country enough to have had an impact on the government's economic plan, or to have had an impact on the deficit. He asked Canadians to be patient. Then, in the next breath, he said that he would be putting a cap on government spending. I think that is shocking. It is shocking because the cap he is speaking of is the cap on funding for the poor. It is again the heavy hand of the government pressing on the poor, the unemployed, students, the sick and the elderly so that it can manage its budget and reduce the deficit in this country.

Mr. Parker: Right-wing policies.

Ms. Langan: The hon. member says that those are right-wing policies, and he is absolutely right. Right-wing policies are the kind of policies that ensure the government will help its friends at the same time as it screws the poor.

I would like to address the title of this bill. The act may be cited as the Government Expenditures Restraint Act. If I thought for one minute that it was a Government Expenditures Restraint Act and not an act to oppress the