

Government Orders

There are a lot of working poor in our land who receive social assistance. A couple in British Columbia is receiving social assistance of \$15,000—which sounds like a lot I suppose to the members across the way who still think that \$500 a month back in the days when they were young was a lot of money and are suffering under the guise that \$25,840 is the poverty level—leaving a deficit in British Columbia for people with two children of almost \$10,800.

I am not going to go into detail for Alberta and Ontario, but the deficits for a single employable in Alberta is almost \$9,000 a year; in Ontario it is almost \$5,500. Single parents, suffer a deficit in relation to the poverty level—they do not even get up to the poverty level in Alberta—of \$6,546; in Ontario it is almost \$2,300. Again, the couple with two children in Alberta fall short of the poverty level by \$10,000; in Ontario, by almost \$6,400.

We ask ourselves a third question: Why, at least in the government's rationalization of the scheme of things, is it doing this? It is saying, in addition to the fact that it has to get some of this money out of the rich provinces, that it simply does not have any money. The federal deficit has to be addressed.

The national debt has to be addressed. We have to ask ourselves how it got itself into this mess in the first place and why on earth should the elderly and the children of our land be the ones hit with the major responsibility of trying to bail the government out of something it created in many different ways, not the least of which were the tremendous benefits in tax relief which it gave to corporations, most of them multinationals. It was pointed out earlier that they were tremendously foreign-owned. The government also gave some benefits in tax relief to some of our national institutions such as the banks.

We have a situation in which the government has impoverished the land and now is trying to get the citizens to build the country up. I guess we are supposed to lift ourselves up by our bootstraps.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party opposes Bill C-32. We have opposed it at every stage of the legislative process.

Before I indicate some of the reasons the Liberal Party opposes Bill C-32, following the NDP member I cannot help but ask myself how hypocritical it is of the New

Democratic Party here in Ottawa to be critical of this government when its friend and comrade in Queen's Park is doing just as much damage to the economy in Ontario as this Conservative government is doing in Ottawa.

Comrade Bob Rae at Queen's Park has developed a fairly negative relationship with business in the province of Ontario. He leads an anti-business government. I was going through some press clippings today and here are some of the headlines. We will see whether these headlines are conducive to a good business relationship in Ontario in order to create the jobs that are necessary.

One headline: "Ontario Business Gears up to Battle Rae's Labour Laws; Business Finds Solidarity in War of Ideologies".

What is business upset about in the province of Ontario? Yes, it is upset. I notice Bob Rae's comrades here in Ottawa are getting a little antsy and are not permitting me to speak, but I will try to ignore them.

Business is concerned about the proposed labour laws in Ontario. I would like to quote Catherine Swift, the chief economist of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, a very reputable organization in Canada. She says: "We are dealing with an organized labour government. If there is one issue they will go to the wall on, it is this one".

Speaking on behalf of business, and let us not forget that it is business that creates jobs, it is business that provides the opportunities for people to create wealth in this country. She goes on to say: "We are going to oppose these reforms to the bitter end. This is the major battle we are going to have with this government".

At a time when we have in the province of Ontario 509,000 people on the unemployment roll at an unemployment rate of 9.7 per cent, hundreds of thousands of people on welfare, this socialist government at Queen's Park has decided to bring in this legislation in order to satisfy its union boss friends, the union bosses who are telling Bob Rae and the provincial cabinet what to do. It is bringing in this labour legislation which has totally turned off business.

According to Norman Stewart, a vice-president of Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited, the NDP government's current labour law proposals, if implemented, would scare off investment and result in massive job losses.