

UI was intended to make things easier for you until you found a new job but the Conservative government has been cutting UI benefits and they are cutting them again on April 4, 1993. The result is that it is more difficult for you to get by while looking for a new job. You are paying the price through no fault of your own...The union that represents Canada employment centres has prepared this handbook to help the unemployed... However, it would be a bigger help if the UI cutbacks...were to be stopped...and it would be the biggest help of all if the Conservative government were to be defeated in the next election.

• (1000)

In its statement of solidarity the booklet states, as follows:

Today, we stand together with the victims of Tory policies, programs and promises. In 1993, we will fight back, on the job, in the streets, and at the ballot box. In 1993, we will remember.

As far as I am concerned, this statement reflects the feelings of the majority of Canadians.

Finally, I should like to read into the record excerpts from an Ottawa *Citizen* editorial dated March 12. Indeed, this article underscores the nature and extent of Tory cynicism, as well as the reasons Canadians have had their fill of this jaded and withered government:

What could cause four Tory MPs in committee to act like a band of self-important fascists? A witness speaking the truth about Tory corruption.

The witness was Val Bourgeois, Canadian Vice-President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He was testifying...on the government's unemployment insurance bill...until the committee's Conservative majority banished him — and expunged his testimony — in a vindictive act of censorship.

This was a shocking and malign —

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Were they not one of the witnesses yesterday, senator?

Senator Hébert: Yes, I am coming to that.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Why quote what happened over in the other place? Why don't you quote what happened here?

Senator Hébert: What happened over there has some importance in this country, or so I thought.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: It is completely irrelevant. We are supposed to be an independent chamber, remember.

Senator Hébert: The quotation continues:

This was a shocking and malign abuse of parliamentary power. Having accepted the committee's invitation to appear, having spoken on his union's behalf, Bourgeois was subjected to an outrageous suppression of his own freedom of speech...This miserable episode in censorship would have been reprehensible had it occurred anywhere in Canada. It is scandalous occurring on Parliament Hill, the very site and symbol of Canadian democracy.

Senator Lynch-Staunton: Upheld by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Senator Hébert: Yes, to his shame.

The editorial also raised the question as to where Canadians could speak freely, if not before Parliament. The answer, presumably, is the ballot box, and I quote, "with the graft and injustices of the Tory record clear in the public memory."

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Honourable senators, I am obliged to point out that the honourable gentleman's time has expired.

Senator Hébert: Senator Lynch-Staunton —

Senator Cogger: Please sit down. No one said that you should continue.

[Translation]

Senator Hébert: You made dozens of witnesses shut up. Do you want to make me shut up, too? You want me to shut up. Sit down.

Senator Cogger: Senator Hébert should sit down.

Senator Hébert: Mr. Bourgeois, following pressures from Liberal senators—

Senator Cogger: Did Senator Hébert get permission to carry on? I simply ask if he did get that permission.

Senator Hébert: —was among the privileged ones to get an invitation to testify before the finance committee—

[English]

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: I have to ask if there is unanimous consent, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Senator Cogger: There is consent. All you have to do is ask.

[Translation]

Senator Hébert: When I was rudely interrupted by Senator Cogger who, of course, follows the rules in their minute details, I was saying that Mr. Bourgeois, following pressures from Liberal senators, was among the privileged ones to be