

Government Orders

The Mulroney policy of raising interest rates, according to most experts, is leading our country towards a recession. The raising of taxes lowers disposable income and makes it more difficult for people to make ends meet. The cutting of VIA Rail is a disaster by any judgment. The loss of jobs in a deal in which the Prime Minister was stripped of his pants by a laughing Ronald Reagan. The threat to transfer payments to the provinces, which the provinces have an absolute right to rely on. That is another broken social contract.

The government is making it increasingly difficult for the people of Canada and the people of Miramichi to find and hold jobs, and at the same time it is reducing the protection that the government of Canada has offered to them during times of unemployment.

• (1610)

This is totally insensitive, cruel, and a betrayal. The effect on many people from Miramichi, and elsewhere in Canada, is that their purchasing power becomes less and less. They are going to have a harder time to make ends meet, to get ahead in life, to buy a house, to rear their children, to fulfil their dreams. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this government seems intent on destroying as many dreams as possible.

The Mulroney government is now cutting \$1.3 billion from the unemployment insurance program to reallocate about \$800 million to training programs and another \$500 million to correct some inequities that the courts advised the government to correct. But in the process, it is also getting out of the UI program and leaving it to the workers and the employers. This is very scary because it is probably going to lead to the end of the UI program, especially in view of the free trade context. There could be pressure put on companies to sacrifice their contributions to the social contract that we have always had in this country.

The big argument that we heard from the government in favour of this savage bill is that it wants to put people to work and this is the reason it is going to put more money into training programs. Once again the Prime Minister says one thing and does another. I want to make it clear, and everybody knows it anyway, that we Liberals have been pushing the government for more training, agree with the principle of training. We cannot agree, however, that the government should take money that

has been allocated to the unemployment insurance scheme, a social contract, and unilaterally break that contract to divert the money to other programs.

The UI program is for the purpose of training. The money should come from somewhere else for this new program, because here the Mulroney government is in fact picking the pockets of those most in need in order to improve its training programs. It is wrong. The Mulroney government is choosing with this bill to unilaterally break this contract and direct this money somewhere else. If it were done by a private company or by an individual, it would be called fraud. The Mulroney government is actually ready to perpetrate fraud over the UI fund, a fraud of \$800 million from the pockets of Canadian workers. We have grown accustomed to this type of behaviour from the government.

If people want to benefit from those training programs, most of them will have to move to big centres like Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, or the Prime Minister's favourite country, the U.S.A. For some people this is just fine. They will be happy with that. For others, parents with young families, single mothers or fathers, older workers, people who represent the majority in this country, it will not be easy. This is not what Canada is about. Every region and everyone in this beautiful country love their region because that is where they make their living and is, in most cases, where their roots are.

Not all people in Canada are obsessed with material possessions, money, and so-called power and glory, as the Prime Minister seems to be. Many people in my area have much higher values, and this is part of the reason why they chose to make their living in New Brunswick.

The government's obsession with materialism is in fact going to lead just about all Canadians to live in big centres and fight like crazy for the so-called competitive edge. In the end, if no one stops the government, it is going to destroy the country.

Those who will be affected by this legislation will have to eat, in many cases, they will need help from somewhere. The provincial governments have to pick up the shortfall from the folly of this federal government. Where is the money going to come from? It has to come from the same pockets of the same taxpayers as the federal government gets its money from. Therefore, this