

*S. O. 21*

control over the day-to-day lives of Canadians: more regulation, more taxes, more state ownership, more interference and more control over the decisions Canadians must take in their homes and in their businesses.

At the heart of the Liberal position on free trade is a confused, contradictory hodge-podge of principles sometimes called pragmatic but more actually called opportunistic. It is no wonder members of the NDP and the Liberal Party are frightened of free trade. It goes against everything they stand for. The concept of free trade is as foreign to the NDP and the Liberals as individual initiative, private business, and freedom from the heavy hand of state.

The bold initiative of the Government is based on the principle that Canadians deserve every opportunity to free themselves from dependence on the state. Free trade is based on the principle that Canadians have a right to as large a market as possible from which to reap the rewards of their ingenuity and hard work. Free trade is based on the same principles that guide the Government daily, bold, courageous, daring principles that the Liberals and the NDP cannot stomach. Fortunately, Canadians—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

\* \* \*

**TAX REFORM**

## CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday's typical Tory tax reform is one more example of the Government's dishonesty. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) refuses to provide real tax fairness for Canadian families.

Average and low-income families will still be worse off after this so-called reform than they were before the Government came to power. Under the guise of tax reform they will now pay a sweeping new tax on virtually all goods and services after the next election.

Middle-income families will lose 60 per cent of their child benefits by 1991 while households with incomes of over \$100,000 will get income tax cuts five times greater than families making \$30,000.

While the Minister continually claims that his purpose is to help those most in need, poor families who should not have been paying taxes in the first place will continue to be fleeced and more will start paying taxes each year. Others are not eligible for the non-refundable child tax credit.

The Minister has partially deindexed the child tax credit and the family allowance and the new tax credits will not be indexed to inflation, ensuring that family benefits will be steadily eroded. Why does the Government not be honest with

Canadians for once and admit that its vision is of a system which gives more to those who already have the most? Canadians have been handed an empty package of broken promises and political rhetoric for a merry Christmas and—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

\* \* \*

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

## PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal):** Mr. Speaker, the plight of many thousand homeless men, women and entire families in Canada was highlighted during 1987, the International Year of the Homeless. Canadians were made more aware of this despair, and Governments were encouraged to address and resolve these inadequacies. In two weeks, the year designated to accentuate this issue and find satisfactory solutions will be over but the crisis will not.

Throughout urban and rural centres, soup kitchens and emergency facilities have been established to offer sustenance and shelter. While these measures address the problem in the short term, they do not provide a stable base from which these people can reintegrate into the community. The problems of the homeless are chronic and appear to be getting worse. These people are falling through the cracks of our society.

I join my constituents of Fundy—Royal in calling upon the Government to ensure that the homeless and poorly lodged live in adequate and healthy housing and that these citizens are able to participate fully in Canadian life. Let us not allow the commitment of 1987 to become yesterday's concern in 1988.

\* \* \*

**TRADE**

## CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL POSITION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in the face of considerable authority to the contrary, the Government notes that it has the right to implement the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal by passing legislation in areas of provincial control. Not only is the Government's position not supported by the weight of legal authority but the position is contradicted by Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., Allan Gotlieb, the author of a book on international treaties.

In his book published in 1968, Mr. Gotlieb wrote that the Parliament of Canada cannot, through making a treaty, legislate in fields of provincial legislative competence.