

*Government Orders*

This bill written in Washington, D.C. and sent up, I hope with adequate postage, to this government is an example of the kind of harmonization that is destroying the social fabric of the Canadian work place.

Why would a government move in this direction at this time unless harmonization was the goal? What the government does not talk about is the growing banking system for the poor. One of the fastest growing banking systems for the poor are the food banks. We now have more food banks in this country than we have McDonald's restaurants. Two million people a week are lining up at food banks in this country. That is a record of the Tory government, the free trade agreement and harmonization.

There are 1.5 million people unemployed and the number is rising. Instead of giving people an option to have more time to find ways of finding a job the government is cutting back on access to unemployment insurance and on the payments themselves.

• (1525 )

It seems obvious that this government has abandoned its responsibility to Canadians, except for Canadian industries that are a pale reflection of the corporate agenda dictated by the United States and the international capital community.

It does not like to hear these words any more. It believes that the new global economy demands that we cut the guts out of everything we have fought for in this country on behalf of working men and working women. It is urging workers to be more productive with less wages. It is urging men and women to not dare to give up their jobs, even if they are harassed or the working conditions are subhuman, because they will be punished under this bill if they do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, two minutes. I thought for a moment that you were giving me a salutary greeting but I understand it was just the two-minute signal. Nonetheless, I appreciate your friendliness.

It is unbelievable that this House is not jam-packed for every second of this debate because this debate is at the crux of the social fabric of which this nation is built and which is being abandoned by the Conservative government at the behest of its erstwhile partners in the American business community who are dictating the policy for the Canadian nation.

This bill is an example, quietly and relentlessly pushing its way through this House, of how the Tories have capitulated to outside capital interests to destroy a competitive edge we had in terms of Canadian working men and women.

What is furthermore regrettable is that while image is being pursued by the mass media around the Tory leadership candidates, not one of them has been asked whether or not he or she will vote against this bill to show that they are different than the present Prime Minister of this country.

They can change a man's suit or a woman's hair—do but that does not change that person's policy. It does not matter a fig who is leading that party over there because they support this kind of legislation which hurts Canadian working men and women.

My dear friend across is mumbling but I do not interpret those mumbles other than as a subdued confession that he, too, will abandon the possibility of running for office simply out of shame at what this bill is doing.

I know that my time is up in this debate, but I want to warn the government that I will be relentless in my pursuit of the fact that none of the leadership candidates of the Conservative Party has taken any position other than to support this destruction of unemployment insurance as we know it. Let every woman and man in this country know exactly what the government is doing.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I do not always agree with the member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, but after listening to the latter part of his remarks I do support what he has to say. I find it amazing, and I said this yesterday in the House, that we are almost one month into the Conservative leadership campaign and with the exception of the member for Etobicoke—Lakeshore there has not been another member in the Conservative Party who has been advancing debate or promoting ideas in terms of what he or she stands for.

I agree with the New Democratic Party member. I guess we are going to get the real test in about three or four months but when we are knocking on doors in mid-July or late August, whenever the government decides to call the election, we can be sure that the people of Canada are not going to forget about the GST, the devolution of powers that this Conservative government has orchestrated over the last 10 years, or the dismantling of national institutions.