

Conservative party when its members talk about a two-tier system.

Hon. members in that party get up and talk about the great contribution the young people of this country could make if they had the opportunity. Of course they could make a contribution. The government deserves a lot of criticism and, for God's sake, the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) has criticized the government day in and day out in the committee, but what is the Conservative party doing for the young people? First of all, most young people do not have jobs, and most of the ones who are working are at the lower end of the wage scale in this country. When these young people are laid off they too will be receiving some 50 per cent of insurable weekly earnings, so the motion of that Santa Clause from Rocky Mountain is going to hit the young people and the women of this country, and that is not right.

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The other people that the Santa Clause from Rocky Mountain wants to hit are those who live in the Atlantic provinces. We know that is where the unemployment is. We also know that in a place like Newfoundland the cost of living is higher than in Alberta, Saskatchewan or Ontario. I should like to know where some of the members from the Atlantic provinces are tonight. The members of our caucus from that area spoke out in committee and in this House about why people in the Atlantic provinces are unhappy with Premier Moores and the proposals of the Conservative party—and the Liberals, of course. That is obvious. Those are the people that the Conservatives want to hit under the two-tier system—the women, the young, and the people from the Atlantic provinces and poor parts of the country. That is not fair at all, Mr. Speaker.

I just wanted to make those non-partisan remarks about the Tory motion—that we will not reach—about the two-tier system. The Tories have been holding us up on clause 1 because they are embarrassed to get to their motion regarding the two-tier system.

I am not going on longer, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nystrom:** —because I want to hear what the so-called red Tory, the great leftist, the Tory we always see out at all the progressive movements, the hon. member for Egmont, is going to say about that two-tier system. The hon. member for Vancouver Quadra and other members have been talking about more cutbacks and more restraint. I know the hon. member for Egmont very well, and I know how concerned he is about the cutbacks hurting the ordinary people who cannot defend themselves, but his party has been advocating restraint for the last two years. Of course when things are restrained, as they have been in Manitoba, the people who suffer most are those least able to fight back—the unemployed, the women, the young, and in Manitoba, the Indians and Metis have been affected. Those people could tell lots of stories about what has happened in Manitoba.

### *Unemployment Insurance Act*

We have all seen the statistics for Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. In the last year unemployment has shown the greatest increase in Manitoba of any province—it has increased by over 30 per cent. Did someone call out that that was a lie? If so, I should like him to state that publicly. The facts show that unemployment has increased in Manitoba by about 30 per cent in the last year. That is a higher rate of increase than in any other province and it has happened because of the meat-axe that Premier Lyon has taken to that province. There are many stories about the programs that are being chopped.

Let me return to discuss what is happening in this House, Mr. Speaker. The Conservative party is advocating that when a worker in Newfoundland, for instance is laid off, he should receive \$50 per week. The Leader of the Opposition is the \$50 Santa Claus. That is what the Conservative party is advocating, and that is what the people of this country must understand about the party to my right. The leader is the \$50 Santa Claus from Rocky Mountain. Part-time workers would receive as little as \$25 per week, and if anyone can live on that, I will be very surprised.

This is an insurance plan, Mr. Speaker, and everybody should contribute equally according to the same formula. The workers of the country are supposed to contribute equally, but under the Conservative two-tier system they would receive benefits in a different way. The single worker would make the same contribution as the worker with dependants, but if the worker with dependants were laid off, he would receive more than the single worker without dependants. Is that equity? I again direct my remarks to the so-called red Tories, the two MacDonaldis, and ask them if it is?

A member of the Conservative party interjects to say that universality is tearing the country apart. Are old age pensions tearing this country apart? Is medicare tearing this country apart? Is hospitalization tearing this country apart? Is that where the Leader of the Opposition stands—that medicare and hospitalization are tearing this country apart? Is that the position of the Conservative party? I want to know, Mr. Speaker, because I have seen Tories in this House speak out of both sides of their mouths.

If I want a Tory to support a progressive cause, I know where to go. I can get the hon. member for Egmont, the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands, or one or two other members of that party. They will shed their crocodile tears, and weep and moan. That is why I have immense respect for the hon. member for York-Simcoe; that is why I have immense respect for the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies), and for the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra, who are the true Conservatives, the people who control the Conservative party and who defend Conservative principles in this House.

The hon. member for Egmont is waiting to speak. He will moan and groan that this plan hurts the ordinary people, but I should like him to address some of the matters I have addressed. What about equity in paying for the unemployment insurance plan? If the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski), for example, was an ordinary worker with a