

Government Orders

government. I do not know. I wonder if employees of Statistics Canada are going to be subject to this legislation as well. Probably they are, unfortunate bunch of people. Anyway, Statistics Canada and the exemplary employees who work for it found that 44 per cent of the debt of this nation was caused by successive Liberal and Conservative, particularly, governments having given away tax breaks to corporations.

Fifty per cent of that debt is directly attributable to high interest rates. That leaves 6 per cent and Statistics Canada did find—and I will readily admit that is what it said—that 6 per cent of that debt is directly attributable to Canadians living beyond their means, which is very roughly and quickly translated as the social programs, the unemployment insurance, medicare, and so on.

If we listen to the finance minister, if we listen to the President of the Treasury Board, if we listen to the Prime Minister, we find that they are blaming the whole 100 per cent on Canadians living beyond their means or, if you will, the social programs of medicare, unemployment insurance, and so on. No more deceitful lie has been perpetrated on the Canadian people in all of Canadian history or for more devious reasons. The only reason that this action is being taken is in order to suppress wages.

I am going to conclude very quickly so that the member for Beaches—Woodbine will be able to get his points in. There are a couple of other interesting sets of figures. Since this government was elected in 1984 inflation has gone up by 29 per cent and corporate taxes have gone up by 17.7 per cent. I am not even going to give you time, Mr. Speaker, to guess how much it is; I am going to tell you. For the individual, taxes have gone up by 103 per cent and they wondering why people are angry. Are they wondering why they are at 15 per cent in the polls?

I would like to point out that in the sixties the disposable income of Canadians went up by about 34 per cent. In the seventies the disposable income of people went up by 22 per cent, and in the eighties, dominated by this free enterprise, free wheeling capitalist government which was going to bring in free trade, this panacea of prosperity, the disposable income of Canadians has risen by .5 per cent. And they are wondering why Canadians are angry. They are wondering why Public Service

employees are so angry. There has to be some way for these people to be able to capture some of the wealth that this country is supposed to have offered.

If you started working in 1980, Mr. Chairman, your disposable income has risen by .5 per cent, and they wonder why Canadians are angry.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great care to the discussion that took place in the House today, and particularly the comments by the hon. member for Portneuf.

When that hon. member spoke about the unacceptably high welfare rolls in Montreal and in the Quebec province, I can also point out to him that there is an equally unacceptable level in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland, and the Atlantic provinces, and there is good reason for that.

• (2150)

There is not an economist in this country who would not agree that the recession that Canada is still in is a made-in-Canada recession by this government. Perhaps the Fraser Institute would not agree but every other reasonable economist in this country would agree with that.

I want to say something that is absolutely offensive to me, and I think to most members of this House. Since 1984 this government has never made one initiative without finding a scapegoat for it. Every initiative this government comes forward with is accompanied by a scapegoat. In 1985 it wanted to reduce the deficit. It blamed pensioners and it attacked pensioners and tried to deindex their pensions. Later on, when it wanted to blame the unemployed, it attacked the Unemployment Insurance Program. Again, when it wanted to reduce the deficit, it went after family allowances. Then, again, as recently as last Monday when the Prime Minister announced his constitutional initiatives, who did he blame? He went after housing.

If you combine all these things together, no wonder there is an unacceptable level of people on welfare and unemployment in this country. Today we find the government blaming public servants for the deficit.

I listened to that hon. member who said that he was trying to talk to principles here, and did nothing but try to set the Public Service unions against the unemployed, the Public Service unions against people on welfare. The