

stations and newspapers are launching plaintive yet urgent appeals for help for the very people that Bills C-131, C-132 and C-133 are designed to cripple. This what the Liberal Party is doing, and everyone should know it.

**An Hon. Member:** They are Grinches.

**Mr. Rose:** I do not know about that. I am sorry the Hon. Member for North Vancouver-Burnaby (Mr. Cook) is not here, but let me point out that appeals have been made frequently over the radio by the same right-wing hotliners who fought every progressive attempt to build a social system in the country so that the poor could at least reach up to the poverty line. They fight all year, every year, against progressive social legislation, and then they get on the air at Christmastime and beg for charity. They beg and beg and beg because they do not believe in Government intervention or Government intrusion into these matters. They would rather go into an orgy at Christmastime of giving, and guilt-tripping, begging and saying what nice fellows they are. Yet when it comes to supporting a social system that would prevent poverty, unrest, unsettlement, tragedy, crime and all other things which plague society, they are not there then as they do not believe in social support systems because there is no money in it.

What they really need to remember is that problems exist in our social system which private enterprise or private charity, no matter how well-intentioned, cannot solve. They have not learned that yet. I hope they will learn it by suffering along with the people who are frequently held down by their archaic attitude.

There are Sally Ann officers in front of every liquor store, there are Santa Clauses on every street corner ringing their bells for donations to help the needy, and tonight ironically the House has chosen these festive days to cut back on the old, young, weak and unorganized. We shouldn't be proud of ourselves for that, all in the name of beating back inflation! What nonsense, what drivel.

The general public knows what it is like out there. The people whom I represent, and the people whom Members on both sides of the House represent, know how tough times are. They need a little encouragement and leadership from their Government. When it comes to their own personal donations, commitments and generosity, they are right there. I did a little checking today; I did some telephoning. While the Liberals are cutting back on Family Allowances, which is often a major source of income most women have, the Salvation Army has found that its street contributions are up 30 per cent over last year and that its mail-in contributions are up 38 per cent. The Scrooges over there are cutting everyone back by 5 per cent. People instinctively know that if their Government is cutting them back, they have to give, through their own resources and initiatives, not because of any drive or advertising, gifts to the Salvation Army rather than Christmas gifts to one another. Donors should be congratulated for it.

Let us put that in the light of what we are doing with the three Bills which we have been debating for the last couple of weeks. My Party will not let them through before Christmas;

#### *Family Allowances Act, 1973*

we are determined not to let them through before Christmas if there is anything physically we can do to prevent their passage. The United Way, on a national level, indicated that its contributions are up 5 per cent over last year but that in places like Ottawa, where the recession has not hit quite as hard, they are up 20 per cent and 30 per cent, while total corporate donations have not increased at all. Representatives of the Kamloops food branch, according to the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis), indicated that it is going very well. The food bank cannot qualify as a complete success, but many people are donating food and money. The sponsors are really pleased that they are getting such a tremendous and positive response. The community services of Mission City in my constituency reported as late as Friday that its donations are running at \$1 per capita, which is more than double the giving of last year. More support is desperately needed.

**Mr. Benjamin:** They cannot get to everyone.

**Mr. Rose:** Charities certainly cannot get to everyone, and no one should pretend for one minute that they can. We should congratulate those people who give their money, talent, effort and energy so that others with less can have more. While they give more generously, why should the Government be so cringingly parsimonious? It should not. It is unacceptable.

It is fair to admit, as the Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller) said, that there is probably not a great deal of fuss being generated by the deindexing of the OAS or Family Allowances. In fairness, we should be prepared to admit that there has not been a great deal of fuss. I think there are a couple of reasons for the silence. One reason is that people who receive Family Allowances and old age pensions will get a raise in January. The only difference is that it will not be as big as it should be. They will not really know what happened to them because they have not taken the time, nor are they able in many instances, to study what the differences will be to them as individuals. Further, they will not know until it catches up with them. Nobody told them that they were supposed to get \$10 or \$11 more next year and that they will only get \$6. No one told them, but they will find out.

The second reason is that there has been a very strong propaganda battle launched against indexing itself over the last number of years. I think there is a powerful lobby led by some political interests. I think there is also an investment lobby and an insurance lobby, financed by those people who control the investment plans and the private pension plans. These interests do not want indexing because they would be forced to provide it in their plans. They have mounted a tremendous attack on indexing. I think some people have responded to this lobby and feel that if indexing is not illegal perhaps it is only slightly immoral. These are two reasons there has been no real, large public outcry so far over what the Government is attempting to do—to scapegoat low income people.

I would like to develop that subject in somewhat greater depth, if I may now call it six o'clock and reappear here in a later reincarnation at eight o'clock this evening.