

*Government Orders*

Do we ever hear anything from these fat cat Tories when it comes to high salaries of chief executive officers of corporations? We never hear a word. Is that fair?

A few years ago the federal government used to be the leader when it came to the minimum wage. Provinces lagged behind. Who is taking up the rear these days? Who is last in the line of providing a minimum wage? Is it little P.E.I., Newfoundland or Manitoba? No. It is the federal government. These parsimonious Tories have not adjusted the minimum wage for almost six years. It has not been adjusted since 1986. I ask you the question, Mr. Speaker: "Is that fair?"

What about the monetary policy? What about the policy of this government to wrestle inflation to the ground? None of us likes inflation. I do not know anyone on the face of the earth who likes inflation. The Tories stand up very bravely and say they are going to wrestle inflation to the ground. They have not done a bad job. But who was the pawn in this process? Who was used in the process to fight inflation to the ground? It was the little guy, the worker. The anti-inflation policy was carried out on the backs of little people. I ask you, Mr. Speaker: "Is that fair?"

What about the cuts in transfer payments to the provinces, cuts which are going to have and already have had a serious impact on health care programs in the provinces? I ask the question, Mr. Speaker: "Is it fair?" Is it fair to pass on more and more of the federal government's responsibility with respect to health care to the provinces? Is it fair to take federal cash out of the medicare system which will leave the provinces with an absolutely unbelievable burden that they will not be able to bear?

Mark my words, Mr. Speaker. Consider when there is no more federal cash for medicare, when the federal government loses its lever to apply the Canada Health Act. That will happen. The provinces will soon be adopting or instituting user fees and other measures like extra billing, and that will be the end of medicare. That will be the beginning of a two-tiered system where the rich will have their system and the poor will have their system. Of course the system of the poor will be a poorer one because they will not be able to afford the kind of

system that the rich can enjoy. I ask the question again, Mr. Speaker: "Is that fair?"

I can take you down this long line of issues and I can raise the question every time: "Is it fair to be preoccupied with cutting and tearing apart the social contract that has existed in this country for so long?" What about the clawback of pensions? What about the clawback of family allowances?

Of course the Conservatives get on their soap box and say: "After all, we are just going after people with the wherewithal. We are just going after people with means. We are not going after poor little people. We would never do that". That is not true. The clawback is not tied in any way to inflation.

Even though the Tories wrestle inflation to the ground, I can assure you that as time moves on and as inflation takes its toll, the clawback to family allowances and the clawback to pensions will hurt more and more and more all the time. As you well know, the threshold right now is \$50,000. That does not sound too bad, does it? It does not sound too bad, but when it comes to pensions, in eight years from now, \$50,000 will be \$40,000 because there is no indexation. That is what the threshold will be in eight years, \$40,000. In 30 years it will be down to \$20,000.

Can you imagine after 30 years of inflation, 30 years down the road? Canadians are going to have an old age pension worth \$20,000. Is that fair? Is that the direction they should be following? Canadians know. They know and they say it every day. That is why the polls show that the Tories will be turfed out at the first opportunity. Canadians know that their policies are the ruination of this country. They have never heard of the word "share".

You will grow old, Mr. Speaker, sitting on this side of the House and waiting for the word "share" to come out of their mouths. The Tories do not believe in sharing. They never heard of sharing. In fact, if you ask them what sharing means, it means thievery to them. It means having to share some of what they have with other Canadians. That is what sharing means to them. It means thievery.

This idea of building two tiers in our society is achieved by the clawback. The clawback does that. The cuts in transfer payments to provinces build two tiers. This