

*Government Orders*

This is not an ideological issue. It should not be a question of right wing thinking versus left wing thinking. There is no purity here. Nobody has a monopoly on a moral issue. This is really about how Canadians define themselves. This is really about what kind of country Canada is going to be. This government has challenged many of the basic tenets of the social contract that we have negotiated between ourselves over 125 years. It is the contract in which no matter whether you come from Newfoundland, Quebec, British Columbia, Ontario or New Brunswick, there are some things we hold in common.

There are many ways in which we are different across the provinces. We have different languages, different culture backgrounds, different ethnic groups, different economies—some are seasonal, some are manufacturing and some are resource based—different weather, but there are some values that we hold in common. Those values have always been defined by our institutions and by the participation of our national government.

There is only one national government. There are 10 provincial governments and territorial governments, but only one national government capable of giving some national leadership and national programs, capable of providing national standards that Canadians no matter where they live will find in common. When the national government withdraws from those programs, we turn the country into a social and political tower of Babylon in which we hold nothing in common.

Bill C-32 is the latest manifestation of a program of national deinstitutionalization, national destruction, that has been undertaken by this party for the last seven or eight years. Take any small community in Newfoundland or any small community in any part of this country where once the federal flag, the flag of Canada, flew over a post office, the flag is no more and neither is the post office.

In many parts of this country where once VIA Rail pulled up, stopped and picked up people in rural and isolated communities and allowed them to move around this country, particularly the aged and students, there are no more trains. They are gone. Where once people could look forward to services sometimes in a small hospital or in a medical clinic, because of the medicare program and transfers, because of a different set of cuts—the transfer payments have been cut—and because of the millions that have been cut unilaterally by

this government, many of those medical facilities or institutions are now gone. Urban centres are more crowded than they used to be.

At one time a bright young Canadian, no matter where he or she lived, if they had the brains, the will—power and the get-up-and-go to grab themselves by their bootstraps and to go out and seek their future in this country, they could do that. At one time they could feel that no matter what their circumstance, no matter what their background, no matter what their family income, if they had the get-up-and-go they could find access to good quality education.

Today, the worst position you could be in if you want to succeed from an education point of view is to be a middle-income Canadian. Your parents make too much to allow you to qualify for student assistance and they probably do not make enough to pay your way, so you are shafted. That equality of citizenship is now gone in this country.

Unemployment insurance, tack that under Bill C-21. It is another dismantling of another national social net, a safety valve. Bill C-32 is not an aberration. It is not an accident. This did not happen by accident. This was not a bill put forward that somebody had not thought through and suddenly said: "Oh my goodness, look what we are doing. It was not our intent to dismantle this country, to tear up the contract that has been negotiated across and among citizens and across provinces, to remove, to withdraw the national government from the fabric of our national life, to sever the threads that hold this patch quilt called Canada together". It was not by accident, it was by design. Bill C-32 is the latest example of that mad design.

Frankly I found it quite amusing in recent months to see the national government dedicate so much of its energy to resolving the constitutional crisis, the "unity crisis in this country", spending millions sponsoring conferences, hiring all kinds of commissions and experts, holding public forums, looking for that hard to find solution to our unity crisis.

Has the government not understood that one of the reasons the will to live together, one of the reasons the joy of being Canadian has disappeared from this country is that it has manoeuvred for many Canadians their government, their country, their sense of sharing in a dream, an opportunity as well as difficulty. They have