

suggestions to the government so that the government can be content with a few slices less than a loaf of bread.

That is not the main topic of my discourse. What I want to talk about is the proposed amendment, the contracting out. The purpose of that amendment is to ensure that money paid to Tory compradores who organize courses for profit is not charged to the administrative costs of the unemployment insurance fund and is thereby deducted from the money available to pay the poor, but is charged to that 15 per cent which the government has taken out of the funds available to pay the poor in order to organize so-called "developmental activities." We do not want that on top of the 15 per cent which will be taken away from income available to fishermen and other unemployed people who live in places where they do not have the hope of a job, no matter how well trained they are to do another job. There are no other job opportunities. We do not want the amount of money available to help them to keep food on their tables, to clothe their children, and to maintain a roof over their heads to be further reduced by paying Tories to act as go-betweens in creating courses.

● (1500)

Now, in studying the subject of training and employment I had the opportunity of travelling around the country and meeting provincial officials and ministers, and they were all strictly opposed to this contracting out of training, because they said it was simply jobs for the boys, Tory boys, good Tories. Go ahead and play those games, but not on the backs of the poor. That is too brutal.

Now, are there jobs? I want to be brief, so I have passed on to the next subject. We hear the minister saying that there are jobs out there but that people will not fill them; they will not go and work when there are available jobs. However, there are not even any minimum-wage jobs. There is a Labour Productivity Centre here in Ottawa, set up by the government, representing labour and management, which studies these conditions. They have been doing a continuing study of job vacancies. In places like Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, certain parts of the Prairies, northern British Columbia, and northern Ontario, if you stretch it, there is one known job vacancy for every 11 unemployed.

There are jobs, says the minister, lots of jobs. It is just that the undeserving poor—she did not say that; I am interpreting her now, speaking like a good Tory!—do not want to go and fill these jobs because they would rather stay on the "pogey." Well, there are no jobs. These people do suffer. They would like to work. They are not lazy. They are not the undeserving poor of the Spencerian attitude, of the good Tories, although they will become that by Bill C-21, we believe, and they will become much more than the government admits.

The government tells us that our fears are unfounded, that the fears of the labour unions are unfounded, that the fears of the chambers of commerce of small communities are unfounded, as are those of provincial ministers. The government then turns around and says, "But we alone have the facts and we will not show them to anybody. You have to take us at our word." I am simply saying that on an issue like this, which

deals with the welfare of people, with bread on the table, with children going hungry and ill clad, with people not having enough resources in order to have the energy to better themselves or to train themselves for something better, you cannot play games and pretend that the facts are a perfume formula that somebody will steal from you.

What are these facts? One of the officials said, at first, that they could not give us these facts because it would be illegal. Why would it be illegal? Well, if they gave the facts to Senator Frith, who had asked for them, he might be able to find out which of these unemployed people were actually undeserving poor. Let us take one of their sets of figures, northern Quebec, 92,000 people. I have this image of Senator Frith sleuthing around in northern Quebec, going from village to village to find which of the undeserving poor produced in the government's calculations is actually one of the many Tremblays and then is which particular one of the many Roger Tremblays in the region. Perhaps Senator Fairbairn and I could go together and do similar research.

Senator Guay: Be careful!

Senator Gigantès: I would love it! Perhaps we could do similar research in other parts of Atlantic Canada. We could go and discover personally who these shameful people are who do not want to work. What absurdity!

What are these facts that the government will not show us? They are statistical facts about Canadian citizens, gathered with tax money from Canadian citizens, studied in econometric models paid for by Canadian citizens and operated by public servants. What does the term "public servant" mean? It means a servant of the public. These people are manipulating data with assumptions they have put in, and they say that one of their assumptions is that the cuts that they are going to make will affect the behaviour of people. What are the other assumptions? What numerical relation do the assumptions bear to the figures in question? What are the figures? We cannot know any of this. This is secret. This is the minister's perfume formula, and she cannot show it to anybody.

An Hon. Senator: It stinks!

Senator Gigantès: I am saying that the time has come in this country, as in other civilized countries—more civilized in this respect—to agree on the data. There are countries where, before such policies are discussed and evaluated, labour, management and the government sit down and agree on what the facts are, work on the models together and check the data together. Then they say, "Now that we all agree that these are the facts, let us see what policies we can apply to these facts to ameliorate the situation." Instead, we have an adversarial situation, perpetuated by a government that says, "Only we know. The rest of you are ignorant and you are going to stay ignorant. We will not give you the facts. You simply have to take us on faith and you have to believe us when we tell you that you have no jobs because you are lazy, not because there are no jobs." This is unconscionable! This is totally unacceptable and arrogant! There should be a *prise de conscience* by this government, to say to itself, "If we want to have credibili-