

oped tremendously in the last dozen years without any complaint from the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine or any of the other members of the Tory caucus. They never once suggested that those companies should pay their fair share of the taxes. They never once suggested that those companies should pay the \$23 billion of accumulated deferred taxation. They never even said that they should pay interest on that deferred taxation.

Members of the Conservative Government have no interest in collecting the money from the people who have it to pay off the debt. Instead, they said that they are sorry that they cannot pay bigger pensions to single men and women between the ages of 60 and 65. They cannot do it because of the debt which the Conservative Government refused to collect from the big corporations.

The Auditor General seemed to regret that he could not give us a precise figure. He said that it is somewhere between \$30 billion and \$50 billion. Even \$30 billion would be enough to wipe out the deficit. He does not know how big it is because there is no accounting of it. Neither Liberal nor Conservative Governments have undertaken to do any thorough accounting of the money that ought to be paid by the big corporations. The previous Government and the present Government have tried to hoodwink the people of the country by turning out their pockets and crying they are poor and telling the old people, who have given their working lives to this country, that they cannot receive pensions that will meet the prices of today.

Corporation presidents receive pensions of hundreds of thousands of dollars because the corporations received such generous tax gifts from the past Government. Many of the people who worked to produce the wealth of those corporations will have a pension which does not enable them to have a decent room and decent food, let alone car fare. Many of them live in Spadina, and I know them. It is shameful that the Government should try to conceal the fact that it has the means to pay larger pensions. The present Government has now had half a year in office during which it could have begun a change in the tax structure which would have reduced that injustice. It could have made a start toward collecting some of the taxes that it should and could be collecting from these corporations.

During the election campaign the Conservatives promised to collect those taxes. However, once in office, they forgot the promise. When reminded of it, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) stood in front of us and made a joke of it. He is not worried about his pension. He has forgotten about the pensions of the people he claims he used to work with as a young man and that his father worked with. He does not remember those people except when he wants to brag about his noble origins. He wants to forget them when it comes to paying pensions.

I worked for 18 years in a factory, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago it was shut down. It was bought by another company which decided that the factory was redundant. It was a boardroom decision. Some of the men I worked with are still walking the streets looking for work. Who wants a 55 or 60 years old unskilled or semi-skilled worker? They were good workers in the factory during the 18 years I knew them. They

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produced and would still be producing because the factory was producing. It would still be producing but for a boardroom decision by the corporations which receive these great tax gifts, supposedly to create more jobs. In fact, they used the tax gifts to destroy the jobs of 145 employees in that plant.

I know those people by name. Some of them are single. Those people should be eligible for this sort of benefit when they reach 60 years of age. They will not get it if the Government does not move. We are told that some day after the Government has paid off all its close friends, if there is any money left over, it will give it to those elderly workers.

This side of the House will support this legislation. We are not holding it back. It is the Government that is holding it back until next fall. We would be willing to speed it up. Our first speaker, the Member for Beaches (Mr. Young), made an offer. He said that we would put up only one speaker if the Minister would make the law effective as soon as possible. The Minister did not take him up on it. The Minister intends that no one will get that benefit until next fall. Furthermore, it will only benefit some of the people who really need it. The Government does not intend to give any of this benefit to people who have not been married, who have reached the age of 60 and who are poor. There are many of these people around the country. We see many of them sleeping in the TTC shelters on the streets of Toronto in the cold weather. We can see them sleeping on the stairways of Toronto Parking Authority garages, especially in front of City Hall. They are people who need this benefit, but the Government will not give it to them because it would rather give it to the oil companies, the banks and the others who contribute to its election campaign fund.

● (1520)

I regret very much the stinginess of the Government. I will support it in so far as it will give this benefit to a few of the people who need it. However, I wish it would give it sooner rather than wait until September, as provided in this legislation. I suggest that the Government reconsider this measure and give this benefit to single people as well as to widowed people.

Mr. Weiner: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member referred to the fact that an offer was made the effect of which would have held his Party's participation to one speaker. That offer was contingent upon our making the Bill effective immediately. To whom was that offer made, at what time and who refused it! This sounds like an interesting proposal that should have been brought to everyone's attention.

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will find it on page 1947 of *Hansard* of February 4, 1985. The Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young) said:

I am, perhaps, at the point of making the Minister an offer which he cannot refuse. One aspect of the Bill, obviously, with which we are disappointed is the length of time it will take to put this measure in place. I believe there will be a ten-month delay until September. If it will accommodate the Minister in terms of bringing such a measure in by the end of this month, my Party would agree that I would be the only speaker. We could then get it through all stages as