

*Government Orders*

The number of people on income assistance rose from a little over 750,000 to well over 1 billion by 1992. The case load in Toronto is over 100,000, 3,000 more people a month; total individuals just under 300,000.

Ottawa-Carleton, an area that has suffered equally, has had an increase of 42 per cent. The increase to property tax owners is going from \$290 million to \$350 million; \$12 million of that will be on property taxes. This government has taken programs and transferred them not only to provincial costs, but down to the municipal costs.

We talk about affordable housing. Anything the government did yesterday to make housing more affordable, it has undone with this piece of legislation because the costs in some provinces go directly on to the cost of owning a house. In Ontario it is through increased taxation. It is as important to be able to maintain that home as it is to purchase the home.

In British Columbia there is also an increase in people seeking income assistance. It has now reached the same point that it was during the recession of the early 1980s. Up until this point, B.C. has not felt the same impact of the recession as the industrial heartland in Ontario. In spite of that, it is now experiencing income assistance case loads that were equal to the height of the recession in the early 1980s.

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At the same time, there are all sorts of other services other than direct assistance to individuals in terms of income assistance that are provided on our Canada Assistance Plan. I want to talk a bit about the flimflam and the hypocrisy of the government's actions in this as it relates to one of its pet things, which is violence against women or within families.

With a great ballyhoo, five different cabinet ministers made parallel announcements across this country that they were going to spend \$137 million over five years. The bulk of that money is going to be spent long after they are defeated and gone from power. Very little of that money, less than \$20 million, is to be spent this year.

About the same amount is for the next fiscal year and the rest is for some time off in Never Never Land.

At the same time it is taking \$1.2 billion from Ontario and \$1.2 billion over five years in British Columbia. In Ontario it is \$1.2 billion in one year and somewhere in the neighbourhood of several billion dollars over the five-year period. Here it is making this to-do that it is going to put in \$137 million for violence within families and against women while it is cutting back hundreds and hundreds of times more money which is used for those specific services. These are the services that provide transition houses for battered women. These are the services that provide counselling for families. These are the services that provide protection for children who have been battered, abused and neglected.

It has the gall and hypocrisy to stand up and with much fanfare make an announcement it is spending this money when in fact it is putting children at risk by ensuring that services are not available at the provincial level. It is cutting back the moneys by hundreds and hundreds of times. It is putting children at risk. It is putting abused women at risk. It is putting families at risk. I think the Canadian public is sick and tired of this approach.

The government says: "We have no alternative. We have got to get control of the deficit". Yes, the deficit is a serious problem. It is a problem that has been put upon Canadians by two successive governments over the last 10 years. Yes, the government should have had control over it but it was not expenditures on social programs that have driven up this deficit and this debt. Six percent of the increase is because of social programs. Forty-four per cent is because of tax breaks to the multinational corporations and to the wealthy that have been brought in by the last two governments. Fifty per cent is because of debt charges mainly due to the policy of the Tory government. High interest rates have been maintained and are still being maintained to this day by that government. We have to solve the problems. We have to get people back to work. I want to outline two or three things that we in the New Democratic Party are suggesting be done immediately.

Get the dollar down. Let us get our export industry working. Let us have the dollar drop down to a realistic value. Let us get rid of the GST. The GST is the single most destructive thing for this economy in the last 10 years. Canadians are going to the United States to shop. I have talked to people in my constituency. Surrey borders on the United States. These people tell me: "It