

Supply

they have a home they cannot get welfare money; you have to lose your home first. These are people who have worked for perhaps 15 or 25 years and who through no fault of their own are in a situation in which they can only be called destitute.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Salvation Army gave out food vouchers in my community to 151 people. In the first four and a half months of this year, 427 food vouchers have been given out. The Salvation Army hostel for men is virtually filled every day. The number of meals served is up substantially over last year. The United Church of Canada is feeding ten families a week with food hampers. The women's emergency shelter is providing homes for 50 women a month, but of course after 30 days they are thrown out. These are women who have left their own homes because of abuse. After 30 days they are expected to be able to find a job and get started on their own, but that is totally impossible.

That is the kind of situation we have in our country today. It is indicative of the seriousness of the situation when Members of Parliament are forced to consider setting up food banks in their constituency offices to feed a growing number of their constituents. What kind of a statement is that about the Government of Canada? What kind of a state is it, my colleague the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) asks.

The results of this Liberal government's mismanagement and bungling can best be described by an incident involving a 70-year old woman in my constituency. This woman, with her husband, purchased a modest three-bedroom bungalow in 1949. They lived there for 32 years. During that time her husband passed away and she has been widowed now for nearly 23 years. In the last few years, as she approached retirement, she decided to focus all of her savings, all the money she earned, on improving that home. She had a new roof put on her home, new aluminum windows, doors and new aluminum siding. She had new carpets installed in her home. She had the home rewired. She had copper piping and a new gas furnace installed. She also had urea formaldehyde foam insulation installed. All of her money and all of her dreams were focused in the modest home that she and her husband had lived in for 32 years.

● (1710)

Immediately after the installation of the foam she became violently ill. She suffered from headaches, sore throats, and she had respiratory problems. As a result, she had to move out and sleep in her garage for a few months. Kamloops gets cold in the winter time so she could not do that for very long. She went to her lawyer and tried to get some action. She could go into the home for only 15 or 20 minutes during the day and each time she would end up visiting the doctor. She had to move out of her home. She had to try to sell it. She was desperate; she did not have any income. The real estate agents tried to sell the home but they could not give it away.

Then along came a developer who said that he would like to buy the lot. He told her that he would bulldoze the house and buy the lot for \$13,000. She accepted this and stood watching

while her home in which she had put every conceivable cent building up a nest for her retirement years was bulldozed right before her eyes. You can imagine her standing there with tears welling up in her eyes as she watched her dream literally swept away through no fault of her own.

By the time this lady paid off her lawyer who had worked on her behalf trying to get some action from the federal government, she had to walk away from her dream and her home with only two suitcases. Literally that is all this elderly woman had left. She came to my constituency office and asked what I could do for her. I told her that perhaps we could arrange to get her \$5,000. Is that not wonderful, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Benjamin: There is one Liberal smiling on the other side.

Mr. Riis: Some Liberals are laughing. They think this is a great joke. They think that this woman's plight, a person who is on the streets with only two suitcases as a result of Liberal promises, is a great joke. I tell hon. members opposite that the people of Canada think they are a joke. Anyone who can sit there and laugh about the plight of this particular woman, and many like her, is just a sick joke. The whole group is a sick joke.

We have the spectre of a depression staring us in the face. Nowhere is it more evident than in the province of British Columbia. Our number one industry, which is the forest industry, has one-quarter of its membership out of work. There are 12,837 IWA workers unemployed. In addition, the pulp and paper workers—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. parliamentary secretary, on a point of order.

Mr. Tousignant: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it clear to the hon. member that we are not laughing at this poor woman. We are laughing at the crocodile tears being shed when these people describe a situation.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hon. member does not have a point of order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I do not apologize for feeling compassion for my constituent. If the hon. member feels that my behaviour is a laughing matter because I feel very strongly about my constituent as a result of the policies of his government, I do not apologize.

I want to describe for a moment or two the economic situation in British Columbia. One-quarter of the IWA workers are out of work. They are soon to be joined both in the next two or three weeks by about 10 per cent of the pulp and paper workers. The mining industry, which is the number two industry in British Columbia, by this summer will have 50 per cent of its total work force affected by lay-offs and shutdowns resulting in 9,000 workers being unemployed. During the month of May business bankruptcies in British Columbia were