

Government Orders

was being moved out on January 5, five days after Bill C-21 comes into effect, and because of which workers in that plant would lose on average from 10 to 24 weeks of unemployment insurance. This bill is going to have a devastating effect on those people. Whether you are talking about free trade, whether you are talking about social programs, the evidence is that this government cannot be trusted.

Why is the government doing this? There are several reasons. The two reasons most frequently referred to are cutting the deficit and cutting the national debt. When this legislation was introduced, the government went overboard to point out that it was supposed to be revenue neutral. How can the government introduce a piece of legislation claiming it to be revenue neutral and, during the course of the debate on it, insist that one of the reasons these things have to be brought into effect is that the deficit is out of control? We have to do something to cut back on the national deficit.

The previous speaker made reference to the Prime Minister and his gloating over the number of jobs which have been created. It may or may not be true, I do not know, because one can do almost anything with statistics. Perhaps there have been 1.5 million jobs created, perhaps there have been 1.8 million created, but let us take a look at those jobs. Let us take a look at Canada in spite of the fact that these 1.5 million jobs have been created.

I would not want to be the Prime Minister standing up there and bragging about creating any jobs, when food banks have been proliferating. The tonnes of food that the food banks have given out in this country to absolutely destitute and needy people since this government came to power is phenomenal and certainly needs some kind of an explanation other than that we have created 1.5 million jobs.

I would ask the Prime Minister to explain why, if he has created all those wonderful jobs which he is quick to point out are full-time jobs, so many children in this country are going to school hungry. Why are the school boards and the cities in this country having to take up the slack which the federal government has created in so far as transfer payments are concerned in order to be able to feed the hungry children in this land?

There is no way that we can proceed with Bill C-21 and be confident that what this government claims is actually going to happen. In fact, the entire opposite is true. It will be as devastating for this country as deregulation, as free trade, as privatization, as the cuts to VIA, and as the GST is to be.

This government cannot be trusted. All I can say to the members opposite, and I would say it to Canadians as well: Beware when Bill C-21 comes into effect on January 1. This nation is in for the shock of its life with results that were not even dreamt of three months ago.

I do not know whether the results of Bill C-21 were preconceived by this government or whether it is simply a result of its philosophy. It certainly resembles very much the philosophy of Margaret Thatcher. It seems to me to reflect very much the philosophy of Ronald Reagan. He gives us the best analysis of the depravity of this government in its inability to come to grips with governing. This philosophy that is so well exemplified by Ronald Reagan is the same one that tried to get ketchup made legal as a vegetable for school lunches in the United States. I think that pretty well sums up the depravity of this government and the total lack of any meaning that it can possibly inject into our Canadian society as a result of this failed philosophy.

Let us get back to all these jobs, jobs, jobs that the Prime Minister talks about. Let us take a look at some of the jobs that are available in this country. I have here a list of jobs from, of all places, one of the unemployment insurance offices in the city of Ottawa. I will not go through them all, but I will try to hit the full spectrum. There is a job for a cook for \$6 an hour, a counter clerk for \$5.25 an hour, another cook for \$6 an hour, a hairdresser for \$5 an hour, a dish washer for \$5 an hour, a car wash attendant for \$6 an hour and a meat cutter for \$8 an hour up to \$13, one of the better ones.

I was on the legislative committee on Bill C-21, which travelled across the country. Here are some jobs that are available in Prince Edward Island from the unemployment insurance office there: waiter or waitress, \$4.50 an hour; dish washer \$5; meat cutter \$8, not bad. But it does not matter where you are, Mr. Speaker, for a family of two with only one person working, that is the poverty line anywhere in this country.