

transfer payments over five years. However, these provinces see a worse scenario. Ontario estimates that it will lose \$1 billion in the current year.

Furthermore, as you know, Mr. Speaker, the provinces affected by the capping of the Canada Assistance Plan are the only ones that do not receive any equalization payments. Since half of poor families and 54 per cent of welfare recipients live in these three provinces, it seems very strange to me that the government is imposing such a devastating measure.

[English]

I would like to just to mention a few points before I conclude. I would like to say that as a maritimer I suppose some people are wondering why I am debating this Bill C-32 since it has to do mostly with Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. I think that if we look at the statistics it will show that the Canada Assistance Plan does help these provinces. To put a cap on CAP is to punish those provinces. It is punishing the people who live in those provinces who can least afford to be punished.

We talk about child poverty. I would like to point out to the House and to Canadians in general that today there was a report tabled. I would like to review some of the recommendations tabled in the Liberal minority report on child poverty. It has to do with this legislation as well.

The title of that document is *A Child Investment Strategy*. I would like to go right to the recommendations rather than highlight the whole report. In the recommendations the Liberal Party recommends that there should be some type of nutritionally balanced breakfast, lunch and snack programs in schools throughout Canada.

We would also recommend that due to the hardship that some families are enduring and suffering from that we should restore entrance requirements and duration of entitlements to pre-Bill C-21 levels.

We ask the government to withdraw Bill C-20, an act to amend certain statutes to implement the budget of last February. We also ask that this very bill we are debating today be withdrawn.

I should point out that there are a number of other recommendations that have been made. One is that

there should be a winter job creation program to help in the short term. Obviously we need medium-term and long-range solutions as well, but I think it is very important that we develop a short-term job creation program.

We know that unemployment will be very high for students and youths next summer. The government should be ready to have an accelerated job creation program for students and youths in place for the summer of 1992.

With regard to child poverty as it concerns aboriginals, we would recommend that the aboriginal leaders from across Canada meet with the federal government and establish an immediate course of action to address this very serious crisis.

One of the recommendations tabled today in our minority report was that the federal minimum wage rate be raised to \$5 per hour effective January 1, 1992. Effective January 1, 1993 the rate should be raised to \$6 per hour.

While I am on the topic of youths, students and poverty, I urge the government to stop dragging its feet with regard to the Student Loans Program. A complete review of that program is long overdue. I would ask that the government not only look and consult across Canada but look at other models in other countries so that we may come up with a better student loan package.

[Translation]

In closing, I must again object to this regressive measure of the Mulroney government.

• (1540)

Since unemployment and poverty have risen sharply in the three provinces affected by this bill, as they have in all the other provinces of Canada, the Conservatives show a lack of conscience and are committing a flagrant injustice by cutting funding for essential services.

Something is rotten in the kingdom when the ranks of the poor are growing at an astonishing rate at the same time that Canada's chartered banks report unprecedented profits, as we saw last week.

This bill is just a sneaky way for the Conservative government to put the burden of repaying the national debt on the shoulders of those who can least afford it and who have nothing to do with creating the problem.