

*Government Orders*

I just wanted to get a reaction to something we find so prevalent in the country today. We have seen it mentioned here this morning, I think, by everyone who has spoken in the House so far, and that is the cynicism that is out there in Canada today. One does not have to go looking for it, it is so obvious wherever one goes. It affects politicians at whatever political level they happen to be: municipal, provincial or federal.

I just wanted to get the hon. member's reaction to something which I think has happened within the last week. I think it has some bearing on what she is referring to here in her speech. This cynicism is out there. It is going to take the efforts of all of us. It is something like a disease that is creeping across the land. I think it is going to take the efforts of all of us to try and put any kind of a damper on it.

One aspect of this will affect the hon. member in particular. Almost on the eve of provincial elections being called in two provinces, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, we find this government announcing almost simultaneously, let us put it that way, that an organization which has been headquartered here in this province will be suddenly removed from Ontario and put in Saskatchewan where there is a provincial election coming up within the next five or six weeks.

At the same time something in the nature of a science centre, I guess one could call it—both of these projects are very worth while—was announced. Another project would be put in, dropped in, placed in B.C., and an election was called there.

This is a double-barrelled example of the purest form of cynicism that exists in this country. Surely the Canadian viewing audience can see through the political moves that are afoot there and see it with straight cynicism. If Canadians are becoming more and more cynical, surely this feeds right into the hands of the cynics, and I think is gnawing at the very heart of the nation.

I wonder if my hon. friend from Ottawa West would just comment on that. I know one of those particular things is very near and dear to her.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** I thank my colleague. Certainly we are well aware of and under-

stand the cynicism that is growing because we have seen a lack of trust in the government and a well deserved lack of trust. We have proclamations about the sacred trust of our social programs and yet we have—and it is not the first—a bill that is a very denial and destruction of the social programs that were being referred to.

Before every election this government referred to introducing a child care program. Three times it has reneged on that promise. We have seen money cuts to job creation, cutting opportunities for young people. We have seen the slashing of the registered home ownership savings plan so young people cannot afford their first home now. We have seen a surtax that was supposed to disappear when the GST came in. It has gone from 3 per cent up to 5 per cent instead of coming off. We saw Katimavik that gave new opportunities to our young people cancelled. We saw promises about not touching old age security. It was a sacred trust: "On the name and on the word and on the head of my mother I would not touch old age security". Whammo, six months later old age security and family allowances start being reduced and cut. Personal income tax has gone up. Those who are doing well in our society have more disposable income. Those who are poor have less disposable income, and now the feet are being cut out from under them again.

Yes, Canadians see themselves being bribed by their own government to vote the way their government wants not only in federal elections. Oh, no, now they are down there interfering in provincial elections, trying to save Grant Devine's skin. Canadians see themselves being bribed by their own government to vote the way it wants, not only in federal elections, but now they are interfering in provincial elections, trying to save Grant Devine's skin from the negative effects he has created by moving Regina jobs out into rural Saskatchewan. They are moving federal jobs in to fill in the gap he has left, therefore disrupting two sets of families to achieve no positive results.

**Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold):** Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, the member who just spoke, in questioning the member who made the speech, in saying how much I enjoyed the remarks made by the member for Ottawa Centre.