

*Government Orders*

that basis, I am only too pleased to be able to stand here and oppose it.

If we go back to the promises, promises, promises and the sacred trust—if anyone can remember them anymore—what we have here is the application of the law of the jungle to the sacred trust concept. What we have here is the tooth and the claw. The previous speaker and others have referred to the clawback. That appellation, I would remind the House, was put there by the government itself and it is certainly no accident that that was the case.

Bill C-69 is a way of circumventing something which the Finance Minister said was not going to occur when he brought down the budget. That is bringing the budget down, making all these changes to it and all the slashing of programs, on the premise of supposedly reducing the deficit and the national debt.

In bringing down the budget, the minister said that there were not going to be any cuts. Actually the quote is almost directly that the cuts are going to be exempted in major transfers to persons. What he failed to say, or maybe very conveniently forgot, was that there were major cuts already in the works from the previous budget, which had not even been implemented yet. I speak primarily of the changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act and the clawbacks to which I have already referred.

These are going to add to the misery of people before Bill C-69 was even introduced. It is absolutely fatuous for the minister to have made those references that people are going to be exempted from major cut-backs when he brought in the budget.

One of the best quotes—although I have heard it before—is certainly something that we ought to be reminded of. My colleague, the hon. member for Saanich—Gulf Islands, said that the government really does know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

We talk about the cuts in transfer payments to the provinces. Cuts? Well, they are frozen, are they not, for two years? One can just imagine the talks that must have gone on in deciding how to word the government's excuses for what it had done. "Freezing, of course, is not

a cut." Of course, freezing is a cut because there is the matter of inflation and the increase in the cost of living.

Lately, many people are having tremendous difficulty getting into university. The previous speaker talked about the cost of financing a university education, but the cuts in the transfer payments have other devastating effects as well, not the least of which is the ability to even get into the university.

In the beautiful university city of Saskatoon, the university has the reputation of being one of the major educational institutions in the country. There have now been approximately 1,500 students unable to go to university in the last two or three years because there have not been the facilities or the finances in the university to accommodate them, either through the lack of physical facilities or the university's inability to finance enough professors to handle the teaching.

As a result, these people have been excluded by an increase in the academic standards which they have to attain in order to get in. I would suggest to you, Madam Speaker, that a good portion of the people who sit across the aisle who are responsible for the debt and the deficit, for the problems these people are having in Saskatoon and elsewhere in the country, would not be able to attain the academic requirements that these young people will have to attain in order to get into university. Here they are, responsible for the very problems that these people are facing. It is just an absolute disgrace that we have to raise academic standards and exclude people from university. Able people are being excluded because of the financial shenanigans of the government opposite.

It is not any kind of an amelioration to the problems of the people of British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta—to change the subject a bit and talk about the Canada Assistance Plan—to say that they are the richer provinces and it is only Alberta, B.C. and Ontario and not every province. Half of Canada's poor live in those three provinces. As was pointed out previously, whether one happens to live in Prince Edward Island or in Toronto, if one is poor, the effects of it are just as devastating. We certainly have a food bank in Saskatoon, something we did not have before 1984 when the present government came to power. It just boggles everyone's mind how this government can speak about the prosperity that this country is supposed to be experiencing while every day we see that the results are exactly the opposite. We see