

*Borrowing Authority*

country, that that is what it means to be a citizen of Canada. But that will no longer occur.

What has happened with this last federal Budget? Some seniors who have worked hard, and who have made investments, setting aside money during their years to provide for their retirement will not get the old age pension. It seems to be a strange motivation to us that if you work hard, save for your retirement and have some modest investments that you will not get that old age security cheque.

It is the same with family allowances, Madam Speaker. There are half a million families affected who will not get all of their family allowance cheques because they will be clawed back. All this happens at a time when tens of thousands of large profitable corporations do not pay any income tax whatever; Alcan Aluminum and Hees International to name two. Tens of thousands of profitable corporations do not pay any income tax but this Government says to old age pensioners like my dad, "we're going to claw back your pension."

People are perplexed. They do not understand why this Government is clawing back family allowances and senior citizens pensions while at the same time Hees International, Cadillac-Fairview and Alcan Aluminum pay no income tax at all in spite of hundreds of millions of dollars in profits. People cannot believe a Government would do that.

When no Minister of the Crown stands up to introduce this particular third reading stage of the debate to tell people what the Government is doing, I can understand that, I do not think I would want to stand up either. I would not want to remind people that day care had been promised especially when there are two million children who require licensed day care in Canada.

• (1230)

If I were the Minister of Finance I would not want to say that I knew we promised to introduce legislation to take care of that, but we are abandoning that commitment and breaking that promise. That is effectively what the Minister has said. He has said that the Government has broken the promise made to two million children

that it would provide decent child care. How crass, how cruel, how uncaring can the Government get?

The list goes on and on. I do not recall hearing the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister, when they were travelling throughout western Canada, saying that as soon as they get elected they would start abandoning support for the regions. I do not recall hearing them say that, but in this Budget that is what they have done. They have cut back on the western diversification fund and are eliminating regional development programs in both the West and the East.

To make matters worse, the Government is cutting out many of the benefits that flow from unemployment insurance. A fisherman in an outpost of Newfoundland who fishes for a number of weeks of the year should, because of the state of the regional economy, collect unemployment insurance benefits for a number of weeks, but he will no longer be able to collect some of those benefits, and the same is true for fishermen on the West coast. There are fishermen here today who are trying to explain to the Government the realities of the regional economies. The Government is taking the fairness out of being a Canadian by cutting back on unemployment insurance support. It is cutting back on funding for western diversification and funding for Atlantic Canada.

We have heard a lot about the environment in the last little while. The Minister of the Environment and the Prime Minister say that they have now been converted into environmentalists. All of a sudden they are concerned about the environment. We must have faith in them and believe that they are telling the truth this time. I have a difficult time believing that they are telling the truth.

What did the Government do about the environment? Hon. Members will recall that the Government eliminated the Canada Oil Substitution Program. That was a program that was attempting to see that we are not so dependent on the non-renewable resource, fossil fuels. The Government cut out that program. Then it eliminated the Canadian Home Insulation Program which encouraged people to insulate their homes properly. The Government decided to remove this encouragement, and it did. Then it cut out the Canadian Energy Audit Program. Many Canadians used this program to have their homes audited to find out if they were energy