

one in Atikokan that is currently shut down and we are trying to find a new owner in order to get it started again.

The community of Atikokan had 60 per cent unemployment this winter. The unemployment rate in Thunder Bay is in the double digits.

The point I am making is that all these people had expected to get decent treatment by the federal government when it came to unemployment insurance, only to find that their deferred earnings in the form of vacation pay, deferred earnings in the form of severance pay, counted against them. More and more people are finding themselves on welfare much earlier than they should have been.

It is the property taxpayer and it is the provincial income taxpayer who are being forced to pick up the extra costs, or it is the provincial governments that are being forced to pare even further in terms of the assistance that the provinces can provide municipalities, hospitals, school boards, et cetera.

This legislation we are dealing with today is part of a systematic destruction of our social service network in this country. It is a very blatant attempt to pass the problems from the federal level to the provincial level. As we have seen in the past, the Tories have just learned from the Liberals. They just pass it right on to the municipalities where the only choices they have are cutting services, raising property taxes or raising user fees.

It is a systematic attack. They say they are doing this in the name of restraint, in the name of the deficit. A Statistics Canada study showed how erroneous that kind of statement is. Only 6 per cent of the deficit is due to program expenditures. Forty-four per cent is due to the kind of tax breaks that are given to the powerful and wealthy in this country, changes to the tax system to allow more and more loopholes to exist, more and more people to avoid not just part of their taxes but all of their taxes.

We as a country suffer because they are not paying their fair share of our programs. Whether it is social services, whether it is defence, whether it is transportation, any of the services provided directly or indirectly by the federal government, they suffer because of the kind

### *Private Members' Business*

of taxation policies that this government operates under and this government believes in.

The bill itself will make it very difficult for new programs to be developed, to be established. Very clearly it shows how the government said one thing at election time knowing full well that it was going to another thing.

It looks like my time has run out for the moment.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** It being 5.47 o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

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## PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West)** moved that Bill C-203, an act to amend the Criminal Code (terminally ill persons), be read a second time and referred to Legislative Committee H.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this bill is a life issue. So many times life issues are happy to talk about, like the life issue this week in my family is the birth of my grandson, Joshua Robert Christopher Payne, the first born of my only daughter. I have got all my pictures here. I want to show them and I want to tell the world about this joyous event so that the Chair can share with us, our family and the world the great joy and celebration about the new young Canadian who came into the world this week.

**An hon. member:** Are you a grandfather?

**Mr. Wenman:** I am a grandfather, that is right. That is true very much of some of the joyous issues about life, the process of beginning and an end that leads to a beginning that leads to an end, those great cycles.

There are some issues in life that are not quite so easy to talk about: The recent death of my parents, and the death of one's parents is a natural occasion for all to experience who are around this age, I find very hard to talk about here because it still hurts a fair amount.