

Minister says any more. The people of Canada cannot believe him.

During the election campaign, many of us said our concern about the free trade deal with the United States was that there would be a dismantling of programs and that there would be a downward pressure on the high standards that we have accomplished in this country to approximate those found in Tennessee, Texas, or South Carolina. The Prime Minister stated that regional development programs, pensions, or family allowance would not be touched. He went on to talk about all the things he would not do. However, when we look at the Budget we see that he has done them all. The Prime Minister has done everything he said he would not do. He has broken promise after promise. We will take no comfort from anything the Prime Minister says. Obviously he does not mean what he says or does not know or understand what he is saying.

• (1250)

My hon. friend asks what the future will be like. We have struggled for decades to build a rather unique home for Canadians. We have had a very high standard of living. We have had peace of mind because of some very well developed, thoughtful and sophisticated social programs. For instance, someone retiring at age 65 would get a pension. A person raising a family would get a family allowance cheque. A person who is sick or injured would go to the hospital and be cared for.

As a result of the present Government, we are seeing that elements of those systems are no longer in place. Some 128,000 senior citizens will have to give back their Old Age Security cheques. Over half a million families raising children will have their family allowance cheques clawed back by the Conservative Government. Where will it end?

Actually in the good old days we used to make decisions about the future of our country. In cities like Vancouver, Kamloops, Toronto, Montreal and Regina, we actually made decisions about our country because we had some control over the companies in our economy. As a result of the sell-out in the Free Trade Agreement decisions about our children's future will not be made here in Canada but in Omaha, Los Angeles, New York, Dallas and Houston.

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I doubt if the Texans in Houston have our children's concerns at heart when they make investment decisions about whether to close a plant, start a new marketing line, or do research and development.

We have built and developed a system through decades of hard struggle to make this a country one of which we are proud to be citizens. We are seeing it being dismantled by the Conservative Government. These programs are being eroded and dismantled day after day so that the Prime Minister can fulfil his dream that one day we will be part of the United States and our programs will be like those in the United States where they do not have universal health care or a universal pension system. This is what the Prime Minister must want, because that is what he is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, with every crime there has to be a motive. There has to be a *mens rea*, as they say in criminal law. There must be a reason why one wants to commit a particular crime.

I suggest to the Hon. Member that what the Government is doing with respect to the future of Canada is a crime, given what has taken many years to develop. Could the Hon. Member explain what the Government is doing? I cannot for the life of me understand what that motive may be.

The Government talks about the deficit. Deficit financing has been with us for some time. We also know for a fact that when the Government came to power the debt was approximately \$170 billion. In five short years that debt has almost doubled. We have a situation where the Conservative Government, led by the Prime Minister, is the author of half the national debt.

Given that the annual deficit is its major preoccupation, will he comment on the fairness of what the Government has done in terms of asking Canadians to shoulder the burden while certain Canadians have been forced to shoulder more?

With the size of any federal constituency in Prince Edward Island, for example, the impact is absolutely devastating. Will he comment on the fairness, equity and economic justice, given the motive of the Government?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. friend's question. In my mind the motive is clear. The Government committed itself to President Reagan to dismantle the country.

The Conservative Party introduced CBC and now it is trying to get rid of CBC. It introduced Air Canada and now it wants to get rid of Air Canada. It introduced VIA and now it wants to get rid of VIA Rail.