

community that had an 80 per cent unemployment rate back in operation.

So there are successes. There are ones that we wonder about.

An hon. member: How do you get through?

Mr. Angus: How do you get through? You keep knocking on the door. You do not give up.

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, the constitutional conference just completed in Montreal came to the conclusion that economic union in Canada could be put in place only with guarantees of social equity among the provinces. Equalization payments were attempts by previous administrations in Canada to establish at least some level of social equity among the provinces.

I wonder if the member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan would comment on the effect of this bill on social equity, and on the possibility of economic union in Canada if this bill comes into effect.

• (1640)

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for the question.

What the people in that conference were saying is that they wanted mechanisms to protect them and provinces from arbitrary decisions by the federal government to erode the fabric of the programs that we hold dear, whether they are health care, transfers for education or any of the other programs.

They want a social charter as a means of doing that. There may be other solutions but that is the one they focused on and they felt, as I understand the reports, that you cannot have an economic union without a social union; there has to be a balance. Certainly in the European Community a social charter has been a large part of not only its negotiations but of its agreements to protect the people in each of the member states.

That is really all we want in Canada, some kind of protection so that the government of the day, no matter what its stripe, cannot arbitrarily remove or reduce some of their services.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the member about Bob Rae's relationship with business in Ontario. It is clear that Bob Rae has totally turned off business. One of the reasons is

that just a few moments ago he said that if a project had to be undertaken in the province of Ontario under the previous Liberal administration, all you had to do was get the premier's okay and consent.

Today if you want to get anything done, you have to get the consent of the union bosses in Ontario.

I would like to ask him whether he agrees with what is happening in the province of Ontario in which labour and Bob Rae have totally turned off business. Would he not agree that type of antagonism toward the business community in Ontario has had the effect of destroying opportunities to create employment in the province of Ontario? It has scared off investors and the people he purports to act for, the average workers in Ontario, are suffering because of that cosy relationship between Bob Rae and the union bosses in Ontario.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is taking the mythology promoted by the major media in Ontario. I have been at meetings with Bob Mackenzie, the minister of labour, as he sat across the table from the Chamber of Commerce folks and other ministers. It is a very frank but not confrontational relationship. People are investing in Ontario. People are staying in Ontario and if you look at the leaked report of the premier's council, you see that we are more than competitive. We are doing very well.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Before continuing the debate, it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 38, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Ottawa West—The Royal Canadian Mint; the hon. member for Cardigan—Ferry Service; the hon. member for Annapolis Valley—Hants—The Constitution; the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley—Foreign Trade; and the hon. member for Surrey North—Cigarettes.

Resuming debate, the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte.

[*English*]

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take advantage of the opportunity to speak on Bill C-32, the limitation on the Canada Assistance Program being proposed by the national government. I come from a part of Canada that looks at this so-called restraint on the three wealthiest provinces