

## They're Taking It Away

©Ian Robb 1990

Although Ian Robb's wonderful song dates back to the budget cuts imposed by Michael Wilson, it has acquired new currency with the slash-and-burn economics adopted by political leaders across the country. In an interesting coincidence, this issue of the Bulletin goes to bed in the wake of the devastating "mini-budget" of Mike "The Knife" Harris in Ontario. It's *déjà vu* all over again... [Michael Pollock]

"They're Taking it Away" is on Robb's new release, *From Different Angels* (reviewed in the Bulletin 29.3), available from Fallen Angle Music, 285 Spencer Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 2R1.

Moderate; ♩ = approx. 96

Ch:  
 "Oh, they're tak-ing it a - way, yes they're tak-ing it a - way. They're tak-ing all the  
 good things," you can hear the peo-ple say, And they'll take it all to-mor-row if they don't take it to-  
 day; From the poor and sick and help-less they are tak-ing it a - way. Oh the go-vern-ment, e-  
 lec-ted in our de-mo-cra-tic way, Is whin-ing at the cost of all the things they have to pay, And the  
 bully boys on Bay Street, you can hear the bas-tards say, "Oh to hell with pay-ing tax-es; pull the  
 safe-ty net a way."

Oh, the government, elected in our democratic way,  
 Is whining at the cost of all the things they have to pay,  
 And the bully boys on Bay Street, you can hear the bastards say,  
 "Oh to hell with paying taxes; pull the safety net away."

If you're down upon your luck, and have to keep the wolf at bay,  
 Then don't rely on welfare or the dole to pay your way;  
 For the rich they have decided not another cent to pay;  
 You can whistle for your supper, for they've taken it away.

If it's ever your intention in a hospital to stay,  
 You had best not be impatient for a bed on which to lay,  
 Oh, you might as well sit down a while and wait for Judgement Day,  
 For the beds were too expensive, so they took them all away.

If you're Native, Black, or Asian, if you're feminist or gay,  
 If you're just a little different from the most of us today;  
 If you want to make your point or if you want to have your say,  
 You can spit into the wind because they're taking it away.

If you're battered by your husband and you've nowhere else to stay,  
 You'd best get down upon your knees and quickly learn to pray,  
 For the women's center's phone was disconnected yesterday  
 And there's no one left to turn to, now they've taken it away.

Oh, there's those that have and those that don't and those who are OK.  
 And those who understand that fairness is the only way;  
 Then there's those who are so comfortable, they look the other way,  
 And they vote for all the villains who would take it all away.

So if you've health and wealth and wisdom, stop and spare a thought today,  
 For them that don't and them that can't, it is the only way,  
 Or we might as well give up the ghost and join the USA,  
 For there won't be any difference when they take it all away.

**Chorus:**

"Oh, they're taking it away, yes, they're taking it away,  
 They're taking all the good things." you can hear the people say,  
 And they'll take it all tomorrow if they don't take it today;  
 From the poor and sick and helpless they are taking it away.