

Suggested Pension Payment Corrections

to my hon. friends, as members of this House of Commons that we want to help our senior citizens, people on war veterans' allowances, people on disability pensions and others. Let us compare what we are doing with what is being done in that wealthy society to the south of us.

What they have in the United States is similar to the Canada Pension Plan. They have not got an old age security plan. There are many of us on this side of the house who have a great deal of respect for the former Prime Minister of Canada who could criticize those people to the south a little bit. At the same time we have an obligation to initiate something on our own behalf and some years ago the Canada Pension Plan was started. This plan was adopted by corporations and small businesses which put certain sums of money into the government fund. This is what we call a social security tax. This remains unknown in the United States today.

Through the old age pension plan, we are trying to come up with a satisfactory social measure. This is a situation which has been considered ever since this plan was negotiated. This is a plan which the people in this House of Commons can appreciate, and one of which the members on this side are proud, as they have been ever since this government came into power. Hon. members in other parties may be dissatisfied. They are inclined to say that if old age pensioners can get \$150 per month they should get \$175; if they can get \$110 they should get \$125, and if they can get overall benefits to the extent of \$500 they should get \$1,000. These hon. members say this because they know they will never be called upon to find the money to pay these pensions.

• (8:30 p.m.)

I hope the hon. gentleman who initiated this resolution will live for another hundred years, because he will find that the government will never have the power to initiate the policies that he wishes inaugurated according to his resolution.

All of us wish to change this society of ours. All of us want to make it better. But where would we like to live? Would we like to live in Hungary, Cuba, Russia, Israel, Germany, or France; or would we prefer to live in Canada? Everyone in this country, regardless of the party to which he is affiliated, is proud of this country. Everyone is trying to improve the conditions under which we live, even those of us who sit on this side of the house.

[Mr. Whicher.]

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member a question. I listened last week for half an hour, and again today for 15 or 20 minutes, to the problems facing our Canadian nation. The hon. member has told us that in the whole area of social development we do not have any problems. I ask: Do we have any problems in Canada? The hon. member has said that we have no problems. I believe we have some problems, and I should like the hon. member to deal with them.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, I did not have the opportunity of the hon. member for an education. I came from a very poor family. I have listened to a university professor with great intelligence, and I hope that my answer to his question will be more intelligent than the question which he asked. We have problems, and I, as one of the members of my party, agree that we have problems.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You are one of them.

Mr. Whicher: I imagine that I am one of them; I am one of the problems in my party. You are no problem to your party. We accept the fact that we have many problems in Canada. Of course, we have. However, since I was elected to this House of Commons last September I have been listening to questions about these problems and I believe that the answer—

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am getting a little confused in this regard. My question is this. A great many people in the forestry industry—and my question is specifically on the forestry industry—believe they have been discriminated against and have no rights in this respect. I have received letters in this regard. The hon. member has indicated that there are no problems in this area. I ask him whether in fact there is a problem in this area, or whether we do not have a problem at all. Is the hon. member saying that in Canada we do not have such a problem?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. I would like to ask the hon. member how many questions he has which he would like answered.

Mr. Whicher: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is obvious. The constituents of the hon. member are asking questions of a learned man. If they were asked of me, I would be able to solve them.