

the house when he made a plea for what he called the great middle class, which he characterized as being the backbone of the country. That same idea has been reechoed by many other hon. members who sit around him. I want the house to pause for a moment and realize what this actually means. What is a middle class? What is it in the middle of? Surely as soon as we begin to talk about a middle class we are automatically accepting the fact that there must be an upper and a lower class; otherwise there could not be a middle class. It must be in the middle of something. What the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario said when he introduced this idea in the house was accepted without question and condoned by his speech. He tried to prove that there was a vertically stratified conception of society, something which I repudiate from the beginning. I cannot for a moment accept—I cannot understand how any hon. member living in a country such as ours could accept it—the idea of a vertically stratified society in which we shall have lower, middle and upper, middle upper and middle lower, and so on, classes. Thousands of people, yea, millions of them left beautiful spots in Europe to accept hardships and poverty in this country as pioneers in order to escape from a stratified class society. They came to this country and now in the house we hear hon. members say that we must have a strong middle class because that is the backbone of the country; we must therefore have an upper class, a lower class, and it shall be the duty of the lower class to keep alive the upper class with the middle class acting as a sort of referee in between. What sort of conception of society is that? I cannot accept it. I repudiate the very basis of it—and I am speaking for myself.

Mr. COLDWELL: And for all of us.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I say that if the Creator who conceived the earth and its population intended that there should be an upper class to rule and a lower class to be ruled, then he would have brought into this world an upper class with spurs on their feet and a lower class with saddles on their backs. We all have the urge to stand up straight; we will not bend our knee before any class. If we do, we are not worthy of the name of Canadians. I repudiate the idea, and I hope that never again in this house shall we get into a squabble about a middle class and their incomes and say we shall legislate for them. Let us for once accept the fact that there is only one class, namely, the Canadian people. There is only one class in the world and that is humanity. Let us legislate for humanity in

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

this country and we shall be laying a basis for what the Prime Minister called in such fine words, "an era of freedom which will be achieved only as social security and human welfare become the concern of men and nations." He did not say: As the welfare of the middle class becomes the main concern of men and nations, only then shall we have the real basis of human society.

Mr. JACKMAN: That is a complete distortion of the remarks of the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I did not hear what the hon. member said.

Mr. JACKMAN: The remarks of the hon. member are a complete distortion of the remarks made by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario. What he referred to was the fact that some people have larger incomes than others, and that those in between are middle incomes.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): Order.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I appreciate the hon. member's attempt to patch up a bad speech, but this is not the place to do it. He will have another opportunity and I hope he will use it. I hope he will quote from *Hansard* what the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario said, because it is in the record.

Mr. JACKMAN: No one knows better than I do what the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario said. There is no greater humanitarian in the house.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I wish to say that when these gentlemen refer to the middle class as being the backbone of society they should study the human anatomy a little more closely. If they do they will see that there is more to the human body than the backbone. The backbone of itself would be functionless and useless unless it had a few other attributes.

Mr. JACKMAN: The head and the belly. What the hon. member is saying is primary school stuff.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: If the hon. member wants to talk about the belly he may go ahead.

Mr. MacINNIS: That is all he is thinking of, anyway.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: If we are to talk about the backbone of this country, meaning thereby the main class of people who are necessary in the country, we cannot pick and choose because all the people who lead a useful life, who produce anything by means of their