

around 1940, when Canada needed manpower for its ammunition plants. I can remember then that hundreds of women would go to the Quebec City Palais Station to board special trains taking them to the ammunition plants located at Valcartier where people worked day and night shifts. During the war, and in the ensuing years, as male workers were not available in sufficient numbers of the jobs market, the woman was increasingly attracted to it first on a temporary basis and then on a permanent basis.

Many families have contracted financial obligations to acquire a family home, which is quite legitimate. Then the mother tells the father: I am going to work to help you pay our home, and then I will stop working to look after my family. Unfortunately, that was not always the way it turned out. New needs were created. She had to keep on working in order to earn the income required to meet those new needs. Very often we hear mothers say: Oh, if I had a small additional income, I would much prefer to stay home. And just as I was coming to Parliament in the minibus, there was a mother saying: If I could, I would stay home to look after my children, but I have to work to help my husband earn enough to meet our commitments.

We are living in an age of speed which led to a consumer society. Everything or nearly everything is mass produced at the plant and delivered in homes in small packages, which is likely to further strain the family budget, and then the father's income is no longer enough. So the mother has to look for a job to help make both ends meet. And now this situation does not only exist in large cities but also in the country. I represent a riding which is made up mostly of country people; they are rural families and the same problem now exists for country people. By nature the mother is a housewife, and on the whole, she would much prefer to perform that role.

Generally speaking, that is what we hear: mothers would like to have good meals ready for their husband and children, the house to be clean when the father and children come back from work and everybody sits around the table. That is really a family meal and a way of meeting one another to talk things over instead of everyone being always on the run the home being simply a place to sleep that everyone leaves in a hurry. Unfortunately, that is the situation in too many homes.

Mr. Speaker, I believe for my part that the mother greatly deserves our recognition. We all have a mother, and everyone of us believes that his is the best in the world. That is normal. We must absolutely take measures to recognize that also in fact.

All things considered, it is she who gives our country its greatest wealth, that is human investment, it is she who takes care of our children. She must ensure that our children get a good education and a good instruction to be able to carry on a trade or a profession later on in life. As a matter of fact, I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing to find that sometimes these efforts are not successful. I know all members

### *Housewives' Allowance*

receive letters from young girls who, after graduating as nurses, secretaries, accounting clerk or anything else, are looking for jobs. Finding none, they stay at home and it is the mother, on top all her work at home, who has to go to work in a factory or an office to make ends meet.

It is topsy-turvydom. I think it is our duty to straighten things out. Nowadays, mothers are participating in meetings on children's education. They are more willing, at least in my province, to accept the school commissioner job. They sit in on parents' meetings while the father, busy elsewhere, has no more time to devote to his children's education. It is the mother's burden.

If she has an outside job, she is constantly rushed and cannot succeed either in playing her role as she would like and as her maternal feelings make her want to play it. The motion that I have suggested and that we are now discussing aims at recognizing that the mother who works at home is entitled to an income. I would not want this to be called a salary because a mother does not work for a salary; a mother with children does not think about that. On the other hand, she has needs which must be fulfilled. This is not done as in the past, as I explained at the beginning of my comments.

The married woman who has a job in a plant or an office is entitled to wages. Everyone recognizes this. At the end of the week, if she has worked 40 hours for example, society recognizes her right to a monetary reward. This is completely logical. This income is added to the salary of the husband. When there are five people in a family, they share the incomes of the father and the mother. This is a supplement. Everyone benefits from it. However, the mother who stays at home should also be entitled to a reward, whether she is married to a manual worker or a farmer, and God knows that farmers' wives work hard and have long days of work, not only in the house, but also in the barn, to help manage the dairy, to make sure everything is clean. I believe that those mothers are entitled to recognition and to an income.

I said earlier, and I want to repeat it, that it is essential and important for society to recognize in practice that we shall necessarily have to find a means to reward those who stay at home, through a sense of duty, necessity or choice. What happens in the case of a small wage earner, for instance? At the end of the week, the father comes home with his pay cheque, and if he has three children, this means that he must support five people including the mother. Unlike the family where the mother has an outside job, this family has only one income. Income has to be divided into five, and once more the mother will have to go without a number of small things she would like to have, such as short holidays she would like to take once in a while, because she cannot afford them. So she has to live on one income.

On the other hand, I approve the principle of equal pay for equal work. Obviously an employer should not be paid \$100 more by his boss because he has three or five children. Equal