

ances, then I would believe that the mothers of those large families might be able to buy whatever they need without too much difficulty. This would increase consumption and would cause less concern than having to buy prepared foods.

It would be more logical, while promoting this freedom of which we lose more every day, to increase family allowances. By giving money directly to these families, we should leave them with this degree of freedom that they need in establishing their budget. Families know their needs; I do not think that the government or various agencies need provide them with food or advise them as to what kinds of food they need.

Mothers of large families are usually intelligent enough to choose what they need to bring up their children.

Again, Mr. Speaker, many Canadian families deprive themselves; they do not get the right kind of food for a healthy development. We know that many families have to buy inexpensive food that is often not very desirable for human consumption.

I heard, Mr. Speaker, that not so long ago, a father was killed. I wondered how he came to die. I was told, because he ate animal food. Then, he started running after automobiles, and got killed.

It is abnormal that human beings should be compelled to buy and actually consume such products because they are financially unable to obtain healthy and nutritious food.

Our country is affluent with resources, it is the government's responsibility to devise means by which families unable to provide for their own upkeep, could satisfy their needs. Consequently, we should not tolerate in a country as rich as ours that families should have to buy low quality and totally non-nutritious food. We find the means to assist all sorts of organizations, foreign countries, as we did recently, sending food to the people of Pakistan. I am not against such deeds, because we have plenty of goods here. We certainly could help the same way our own people, our Canadian families, and allow them to develop normally.

Should we be short of goods, this would be another matter. But everyday, Mr. Speaker, we realize that the farmers have plenty of everything, but they give up because they cannot sell their products or because they have to sell them below cost. We are then faced with economic dependence which, in addition to preventing many farmers from growing food products, prompts them to leave their farm.

In spite of all that, our warehouses and stores are chock-full of goods. There is therefore no reason at all for our doing without or for our families being deprived of the things they need, when we have everything in abundance.

If bread is missing on Canadian tables, it can hardly be because of a wheat problem and, if it is not a wheat problem, nor is it a meat problem, for there is enough on our farms to meet the needs of all our Canadian families. The same is true of food, clothing and housing.

Canada-U.S. Food-Aid Program

The people are not only deprived of food, but also of housing and so on. We should see to it to spread the wealth among families by sharing our prosperity. It is as simple as that. It has been asked for a long time, Mr. Speaker, that means be found to distribute the abundance in order to satisfy all human needs.

Then, Mr. Speaker, it is just a question of making available to all citizens our surpluses and abundance. We need consumers in Canada. Yet some citizens are deprived, it has been proven, and in this connection I congratulate the honourable member for Vancouver-Kingsway who was good enough to propose this motion so that we may look into the situation and become aware of the facts.

• (5:50 p.m.)

A good many families have to tighten their belts. There is an overabundance of all the things we might need. Then let us work toward distributing this abundance so as to meet all our human needs. We can do it because we have all the means required, even from a technological point of view. We also have all sorts of nice organizations that look after the population.

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would like first of all to congratulate and thank the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis) who through her motion gives us to a certain extent the opportunity to discuss a proposal made in the United States back in 1964.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway would like to obtain a certain report on an analysis reported to have been made by the Canadian Department of Agriculture on the United States Internal Food-Aid Program. Naturally, the hon. member will readily understand that it is not possible for the government to comply with her request, because when a department undertakes such studies, information of a rather classified nature in some cases has to be gathered. When compiling this information, it is also necessary to make analyses, infer assumptions, and even at times criticize some aspects of the legislation of the country where we got this information.

If we were required to publish the first studies on a given project or problem, it would have the effect of discouraging any initiative or suggestion that could come from people who, of course, do not dare get involved in a problem such as food.

The problem of malnutrition may not be as serious in Canada as it is in the United States, for a very simple reason: social measures have developed in Canada in recent years to the point where today we can practically say that nobody should suffer from malnutrition if the money given to families through various social programs is used rationally.

Some individuals can be undernourished even if they have an income of \$100 or \$200 per week, because it depends on the part of that income which they use to buy proper food. A family of four or five can buy \$50 worth of food per week and still be undernourished. Indeed, people can buy, as it was pointed out a while ago,