

a few suggestions or to express a few ideas in the hope that one or more may be taken up.

The other day I heard a comment from an hon. member which indicated that the Liberals had placed no questions on the order paper. May I say, to him, Mr. Speaker, that this member and others have posed several questions directly to the ministers or to the departments involved. For example, I have directed to one of the ministers the question: how much revenue would the government lose if we were to increase the basic exemption for income tax for a married man from \$2,000 to \$4,000? That is, can we afford it?

I want to know if retired civil servants will receive an increase in their pensions. If so when, and if not, why not? I am not asking this question in the belligerent manner of the opposition but my question and my concern are no less sincere.

The Department of Public Works in a news release at the end of August, 1968, indicated that soil erosion tests had been taken with respect to the banks lying along the shores of the St. Lawrence and the St. Clair rivers and suggesting that some of this erosion might have been caused by heavily laden lake boats. I was interested because of soil erosion on Indian lands fronting on the St. Clair river. The news release indicated that subsidies would be available if erosion had been caused, to some extent, by these heavily laden lake ships. I toured in the R.C.M.P. boat and walked the full distance personally to observe the damage in this area. I then met with the Indian council and the Sarnia city council at a general meeting to hear their views. Following this I contacted the local inspector for the Department of Public Works, Mr. Dunphy, in London.

I wrote a letter to him and sent a copy to the Department of Public Works. I wrote directly to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing). I spoke directly to the Minister of Public Works outside caucus and explained the problem to him so that he would be fully informed when the soil boring tests have been completed. Soil boring tests are a must, of course. I am happy to say that the Indian council has given permission to the city of Sarnia to conduct soil boring tests, that the city commissioner in Sarnia will make a report and a recommendation as to the type of construction of seawall which will be required to save the Indian lands in this area, which will then be submitted through appropriate channels for a decision. So questions are being asked and action is being taken.

The Address—Mr. Cullen

As to my approach to questions affecting veterans, I would only say that I was 18 when the war ended but my father served in both world conflicts, in the Royal Naval Air Service in world war I and in the R.C.A.F. as a Squadron Leader in world war II. He then served as district administrator for the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Bay until his retirement. I know the plight of the veterans. In me they will find a sympathetic ear. I wrote to the president of the Royal Canadian Legion to let him know this—and when a lawyer and politician puts something in writing, you know he means it!

Prior to and after my election I had many discussions with Chief Fred Plain of the Sarnia Indian reserve. I had heard about consultation meetings to be held in Toronto and at my own expense and in my own time I attended the three-day session held there. I followed this up with discussions with the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras) and subsequently directed questions to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien). Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals may not have put their questions on the order paper and may not get the credit that such public notice often gives, but I would have you know that we are busy asking many questions, getting answers and, more important, getting action.

I indicated earlier that prior to redistribution the Sarnia riding was the historic riding of Lambton West. Canada's first Liberal prime minister, Right Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, came from my historic riding. Shortly—I believe on October 15—a memorial is to be unveiled in his honour in the city of Sarnia. I am also proud to report that my former associate, Mr. Ross W. Gray, Q.C. served in this house as a Liberal member from 1930 to 1945. For a considerable number of years he served the Liberal party as whip. Afterwards the area was represented by Mr. J. W. Murphy, a Conservative. I must say that notwithstanding our differing political views Mr. Murphy was good enough to contact me and give me some direction with respect to practice and procedure in the House of Commons. In 1962 Mr. Walter Foy was elected and thereafter contested three elections successfully. He retired because of ill health and is now enjoying his retirement in Florida.

I mentioned earlier that the Sarnia riding was known as the chemical valley. Rightly so, because situated along the St. Clair river are