

*Family Allowances Act, 1973*

limited wage increases to Government workers to 6 per cent next year and 5 per cent the following year. The Bill restricted the right of those workers to bargain. It broke signed collective agreements which this Government had signed with its own workers.

As I said earlier, we fought that Bill in July. We kept the House working through July and into August. Here we are on December 20 fighting Bill C-132, an Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973. This Bill will hurt the women and children of this land. It will not hurt the millionaires, but it will hurt the vast majority of Canadian women and children. This is the only income which many women in this country receive in their own name. For many children, it is the only money that is earmarked for their food, clothing and education. That is very important.

I have made a very big deal about the fact that we are fighting. I wish to make a strong point about the fact that we alone are fighting to prevent this legislation from passing before Christmas. We are the only Party in this House that is fighting this legislation. As would be expected, the Liberal Party is supporting this legislation. We cannot expect much more from the majority of the Liberal backbenchers. As Mr. Speaker well knows, the majority of Liberal backbenchers will support any legislation introduced in this House. Mr. Speaker knows that better than most people.

We have been told by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) that he will fight this legislation. We have been told by the Tory critic, who is in the House tonight, and by other critics in the Conservative Party that they will fight this legislation and the Act to restrict the old age pension to 6 and 5 per cent increases.

The Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Blaker) said at a rally on Friday that his Party would never allow Bill C-133 to pass. He said they will continue to fight to ensure that the legislation is never passed. When I look at the number of speakers who have spoken today, I notice there has been one Conservative Member and one Liberal Member, and I am the seventh New Democrat to speak today. The only reason this legislation has not passed and become the law of the land is that the NDP Members are fighting it. We would like to see the Conservatives get up and fight the Liberals for once.

We do not pretend to fight, we do fight. We do not believe in the rhetoric of fighting the Government. We believe in the action of fighting the Government. When we say we will vote against a Government Bill, we show up in this House to vote against it. As you well know from where you sit, Mr. Speaker, every time a six and five Bill has come forward, with the exception of Bill C-124, the Tories have said they were against it, yet when we have the vote in this House, the Conservative Members were absent in sufficient numbers to ensure that time after time the Liberal Government would get its way. That is the truth of what is happening in this House.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) referred to Canagrex. He spoke of the fact that the business of this House was held up for two and a half days last week

because the Conservatives had a great issue of principle. They believed there should not be another Crown corporation even though, as the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill mentioned, it was actually a Bill of the Conservative Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Member for Elgin (Mr. Wise). It was his Bill, and all of a sudden they are leading the fight against that Bill.

They also held up the Bill on the issue that it was another Crown corporation that would not be controlled by anybody. They forget that the NDP Wheat Board critic introduced a series of amendments which would put that Crown corporation under the restrictions of the Auditor General and that that Crown corporation would be reviewed by the parliamentary Committee responsible for that area. They forgot all about that.

We had the unusual, and I cannot use the word hypocritical, but the unusual situation of the Leader of the Opposition getting up in this House and saying that he is fighting it because it is another Crown corporation, even though it was a suggestion by his own Minister of Agriculture. He said that the measure would not be controlled by Parliament even though this is something that the Auditor General has sought. He said that even though we in the NDP and the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) ensured that amendments would be passed to make sure it came under the control of Parliament and under the control of the responsible Committee. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that we will fight where it is necessary, where people are being hurt. We will not make speeches or stall the business of this House to make completely false statements, but that is what is happening with the Official Opposition of this House. They pretend to be fighting, but they are only fighting on Bills they themselves introduced, Bills which they see some political motivation in now opposing.

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We will fight, we will speak, and we will introduce motions and amendments, which is our right, where people are being hurt. We will fight for the old age pensioners, for those who receive Family Allowances, for those who have a contractual agreement, a verbal one, but nevertheless a contractual agreement with this Government that they are entitled to indexation of their Government pensions. It is only this Party, Mr. Speaker, in the House of Commons, which will prevent Bill C-131, Bill C-132 and Bill C-133 from passing prior to Christmas.

If I may digress for a few seconds and speak about a similar Bill which is also before this House, it is Bill C-133, because it is relevant. It is part of the same package.

**Mr. Clarke:** Order.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke).

**Mr. Clarke:** I accepted your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on the comments of the earlier speaker, but the Hon. Member for