

*Mothers Allowances*

if a situation is to prevail where there is no protection except the most sketchy and most unsatisfactory kind of arrangement that can be made, then I believe we are neglecting one of our greatest resources in a most serious way.

● (5:10 p.m.)

That is why I have brought forward the resolution Mr. Speaker read. It is not a resolution which would protect and provide allowances for all married women. It is not a resolution which would provide allowances just because women are homemakers or housekeepers. It is not even a resolution which would provide an allowance for women just because they are mothers. This resolution would provide allowances only for those mothers who decide not to take paid work outside the home, but who want to stay at home and make a full time career of motherhood, and the task of bringing up their families. This allowance would give recognition to the fact that we consider this an important service to the country, and would fill the gap in our present arrangements for safeguarding the family.

It is noteworthy that last summer the director of the Canadian Welfare Council for Canada, Mr. Reuben Baetz, made the suggestion that there should be an allowance for all mothers who are the sole supporters of their families. Let me go further and suggest that this allowance be given to all mothers regardless of whether or not their husbands are working or whether or not they have husbands. This allowance should be given for their services as full time mothers.

I hope that no one in reply will make the charge that I want to give all this money to millionaires. I hope there is not one member here who does not know the purpose of income tax and how it should be used. We should use income tax much more effectively than we have done so far, and it should be used more stringently. We should adopt methods to recover these allowances, whether old age pensions, family allowances or otherwise from those wealthy people who do not need them. In this way we could provide these allowances to full time mothers. They should be given to women who make a full time career of motherhood. Some people might suggest that my idea is rather far out and belongs in the domain of cloud cuckoo-land. Let me dispel that idea by referring to a system that has been in effect in France for some time—and I might add that the women there are about as practical as they come.

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

[Translation]

I would like to read two paragraphs from *Le Devoir* of February 19, 1966 which briefly describe important points of this legislation, and I quote:

To encourage mothers to fulfill their role of educator at home, an allowance called single salary allowance is added in France to family allowances. It is paid whenever there is only a single pay check in the family, either because the woman is not working or in cases of divorce, separation or widowhood, or even for the unmarried mothers.

In a family of four children, assistance thus paid amounts to 390NF or approximately \$78 per month, which is slightly above the minimum guaranteed wage in that country. It is \$30 for two children and \$56 for three children. Beyond four children, the mother receives \$20 for each additional child. Increases apply to children over ten years old and over 15 years old, and the allowances are paid to age 20 in cases of extended studies or apprenticeship.

[English]

So, there we have it. They have these allowances there.

[Translation]

It seems that France has reached the point where society recognizes sufficiently the services of a mother to help her financially. Here, we heap praises and compliments on her, but only on Mother's Day. The rest of the year, we leave her to fight alone against the cruel hazards of life.

[English]

In case I have not made myself clear, I should like to underline again in my native language my belief that we must accept the idea of family life and the promotion of health in family life as a positive need and as a top priority, as they do in France, for mothers who instead of going out to work devote their energies, talents and abilities to making sound families and looking after the manners, morals, welfare and habits of their children. In doing so they perform a tremendous job.

I think we should make it easier for mothers to carry out this task, and we certainly should recognize this as a service. By providing such allowances we would add to the status of motherhood to a much greater extent than can be expected from the little gifts of flowers and other things these women receive on Mother's Day. Such an expenditure would be well worth while. It is no longer good enough to suggest to families that they sink or swim alone. We can no longer suggest that they will prove that they have what it takes if they can withstand