

Employment and Immigration

suggestions to the government. Here is the last sentence of their brief:

In Canada, 60 per cent of the poor are working, without being able to earn a decent living.

One can see that in addition, working conditions are difficult.

In a society which distributes a large part of its wealth on the basis of work, the plight of low-wage earners is shocking and unjustifiable. The latter have been deceived by work ethics and deprived of minimum fringe benefits and working conditions which most Canadians now consider as a right.

The kind of legislation now before us is not likely to improve the lot of those people. As long as they have the opportunity to work, their wages are not even adequate and they cannot draw unemployment insurance benefits whenever they are unemployed. It must be kept in mind that since their wages are not very high, the rate of their benefits are not either.

In the Montreal *La Presse* of Tuesday June 14, an article dealing with the brief I have just quoted reads as follows:

In a society which distributes a large part of its wealth on the basis of work, the council added, the plight of the poor is both terrible and inexcusable.

To meet the problems of low income people, the very first thing to do would be to develop a plan under which they would at least be guaranteed an income at the poverty line. This is the very first step to take.

It is unfortunate that a real guaranteed income program, a real legislation which would ensure a guaranteed income to everybody, has not been brought forward in Parliament. We have heard about it for ten years and even more, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, (Mr. Lalonde) has occasionally put forward specific proposals which he intends to implement. This is a step in the right direction, but it is far from being a real legislation on guaranteed income which should be enforced in a country such as ours, which likes to distribute its wealth around the world—and I have no objection to it, I am quite willing to help those who face difficulties. But we, Canadians, should be clever enough to provide all Canadians with a standard of living that will enable them to look forward to the future with enough assurance.

● (1150)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): The question is on the amendment in the name of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): All those against will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): In my opinion the nays have it.

[Mr. Dionne (Kamouraska).]

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre) which was negatived on the following division:

● (1200)

(Division No. 72)

YEAS

Messrs.

Beaudoin
Blackburn
Brewin
Broadbent
Caouette
(Villeneuve)
Caouette
(Témiscamingue)

Dionne
(Kamouraska)
Gilbert
Hogan
Jones
Knowles
(Winnipeg
North Centre)

Laprise
Leggatt
Muir
Orlikow
Peters
Rodriguez
Rondeau
Symes—19.

NAYS

Messrs.

Alexander
Andras
(Port Arthur)
Andres
(Lincoln)
Appolloni (Mrs.)
Baker
(Gander-Twillingate)
Baker
(Grenville-Carleton)
Baldwin
Beatty
Bégin (Miss)
Blais
Blaker
Blouin
Boulanger
Breau
Brisco
Buchanan
Bussièrès
Caccia
Cadieu
Cafik
Campagnolo (Mrs.)
Chrétien
Clark
(Rocky Mountain)
Clermont
Coates
Crosbie
Cullen
Cyr
Danson
Darling
Daudlin
Dawson
De Bané
Dick
Douglas
(Bruce-Grey)
Drury
Duclos
Dupont
Dupras
Ellis
Elzinga
Epp
Fairweather
Faulkner
Fleming
Fox
Francis

Friesen
Gauthier
(Ottawa-Vanier)
Gendron
Gillespie
Goodale
Goyer
Graftey
Gray
Guay
(St. Boniface)
Guay
(Lévis)
Haidasz
Halliday
Harquail
Herbert
Hnatyshyn
Hopkins
Huntington
Isabelle
Jamieson
Jelinek
Johnston
Joyal
Kaplan
Kempling
Knowles
(Norfolk-Haldimand)
Lajoie
Lalonde
Lamontagne
Landers
Lang
Langlois
Lapointe
La Salle
Lavoie
Lawrence
Leblanc
(Laurier)
LeBlanc
(Westmorland-Kent)
Lefebvre
Loiselle
(Chambly)
MacDonald
(Cardigan)
Macdonald
(Rosedale)
MacDonald (Miss)
(Kingston and the
Islands)
MacEachen

MacFarlane
Martin
Mazankowski
McCain
McCleave
McIsaac
McKenzie
McRae
Milne
Munro
(Esquimalt-Saanich)
Munro
(Hamilton East)
Neil
Nicholson (Miss)
O'Connell
Olivier
Paproski
Parent
Patterson
Pearsall
Pelletier
Philbrook
Pigott (Mrs.)
Pinard
Portelance
Poulin
Raiton
Ritchie
Roberts
Robinson
Roche
Rooney
Rynard
Sauvé (Mrs.)
Savard
Scott
Sharp
Skoreyko
Smith
(Saint-Jean)
Stanfield
Stevens
Stollery
Tessier
Towers
Trudel
Turner
Watson
Whiteway
Whittaker
Wise
Wood
Yanakis—141.

● (1220)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment lost.