

S. O. 21

These proposals, which are the result of discussions between federal and provincial Governments, increase CPP benefits for surviving spouses under the age of 65 and for dependent children.

The paper proposes an across-the-board increase of almost \$100 per month in survivors' pensions for spouses under age 65, bringing the maximum pension to \$385.15 per month. For the first time spouses under 45 years of age would qualify for the same benefits as those between ages 45 and 65.

The paper's other main proposals increase the amount for dependent children of deceased and disabled contributors to the plan to \$121.48 per month from \$94.79.

This is just a further example of continuing improvements and reforms to the Canada Pension Plan for which I congratulate the Government.

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HOUSING

PLIGHT OF HOMELESS IN TORONTO

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, we recently had a conference in Ottawa on the subject of homelessness, and we recently heard through the media how the former Mayor of Toronto went through the park near his home early one morning and found over 40 people sleeping there because they had no other place to sleep.

An Hon. Member: By choice.

Mr. Heap: There is some well fed person across the way who says they are sleeping there from choice. I challenge him to go to that park and ask those men whether they are sleeping there by choice.

There is a very severe shortage of housing for people of middle and low incomes in Toronto. Traditionally there has been empty accommodation among some of the recently built and expensive condominiums, and anybody with \$200,000 or \$300,000 is welcome to bid for them, but for those without there is a great shortage of housing.

A few years ago Toronto City Council planned, through its responsibility for municipal planning, that Harbourfront would include a great deal of assisted housing. The management of Harbourfront under federal direction has mostly squeezed that out. I call upon the Government to reverse that injustice.

IMMIGRATION

ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, tonight in an interview with Doug Small on the Global Television Network, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is going to say the following: "Canada needs more immigrants. We need and should be accepting more refugees, but this has to take place in a system of respect for the law". He is going to go on further to say that accepting more refugees in our country will be the wave of the future. This will be aired tonight on the Global Television Network.

We do not want queue-jumpers, or ship captains dealing illegally in human flesh, at our borders as we saw this summer. That was one of the reasons the House was recalled.

Bill C-84 and Bill C-55 dealt with the issue. They have been considered in the House and will be considered by the Senate. I want the Senate to pass these Bills so that we can get on with the job of building the country with new Canadians.

In 1832 a man named Mike Grimes came to this country from Tipperary, southern Ireland, and he settled around the area of Kingsmere where your home now is, Mr. Speaker. He was a tree cutter and lived to be 93 years old. He grew up in the area around Kingsmere, Old Chelsea, and King Mountain.

My mother is one of his descendants. She was Nora May Grimes. If that man had not come here to this new country, to build this land, to cut trees, and to develop the Ottawa Valley 155 years ago—and in fact he is buried at St. Stephen's Church in Old Chelsea—I would not be here today.

My ancestry goes back to that evolution. That man came here as a new Canadian, a new person, to develop the land. My Irish descent is strong in me.

I hope the wave of the future will be well recognized by the new people who come here to build this land, to make it a healthier and happier one for all of us.

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TRADE

EFFECT ON CANADIAN ECONOMY OF UNITED STATES PROTECTIONIST ACTIVITY

Mr. Dennis H. Cochrane (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, with the recent suspension of the free trade talks, a lot of hopes of New Brunswickers have been dashed. They were looking forward to seeing more open doors between our provinces in eastern Canada and our neighbours to the south.

Certainly the Government of Canada cannot be faulted for making efforts to try to reach a successful resolution to the problems facing Canada, as we see more and more protectionist activity in the United States putting up tariff barriers and countervail duties against our raw materials and resources.