

Disabled Persons Act

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fisher: I should like to say to the Solicitor General—

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Mr. Fisher: I hear a lot of interruptions, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I might stop and they could be made a little more loudly. You are not shouting loudly enough.

Mr. Churchill: Say something worth while and there will be no interruptions.

Mr. Fisher: Is that not a magnificent thing for the house leader to say? I want to make some remarks about the speech that has just been made, and I should like to refer to the Solicitor General who earlier this session pointed out the mistakes made by that great socialist in Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood. I should like to tell him that we have heard today the greatest inadvertent revealing of socialist policy that I have encountered. There has hardly been any legislation brought before this parliament for which we have not been able to vote.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fisher: What are you laughing about? I wonder that the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe and the rest of the members of that party who claim to be private enterprisers are not a bit suspicious about this great socialist who has just spoken. He has used the term "social justice". Under the Prime Minister this government has been committed to forms of transfer payments that are increasing the scope and range of government activity. I want to talk about the paradox that exists when we have people like the Solicitor General saying what fools we are to be supporting socialistic ideas and belittling that great socialist in Newfoundland, Joey Smallwood, when all the time he is supporting legislation such as this, the very stuff of what the C.C.F. has been campaigning for over the years.

Mr. Pallett: Claptrap.

Mr. Fisher: One of the great difficulties of the C.C.F. party has been that both the Liberal party and the Conservative party have brought to the fore these great, inadvertent socialists. There is no denying that almost every item we have had this session relating to a welfare program has had a prominent place in the program of our party.

Mr. Benidickson: And at one time opposed by the Conservatives.

Mr. Fisher: Wouldn't we be complete fools not to support them?

Mr. Pallett: You would be fools whether you did or not.

[Mr. Fisher.]

Mr. Fisher: I should like to make the point that there is nothing really contentious in this legislation, and it should be greeted with ready acceptance. There is only one real criticism, and I am sure we are going to hear more about it from the official opposition because they have their specialists like Mr. Gordon. The only real criticism is that there has been nothing wrong with the social welfare legislation of the government except that it does not fit into the total pattern of economic growth. The main criticism of the government that we would put forward is not with regard to its measures in the field of social welfare or social justice, to use the Prime Minister's words, but rather that there has been a failure to come to grips so far as administration is concerned, a failure to produce an economy expanding fast enough to take care of some of these changes.

It seems to me that the contentiousness so far as this legislation is concerned is absolutely minimal, and instead its relationship to an election or what one might call parliamentary barter is much more apparent. The C.C.F.-New Democratic party is happy with this particular piece of legislation. It is happy with the larger circumstance into which this piece fits, and we support it very readily.

Mr. McGee: Why do you not smile when you say that?

Mr. Fisher: The hon. member asks why I do not smile. I might say the same thing about the Prime Minister. Why did he not smile a bit at the wonderful genesis that the Liberal party gave to this kind of legislation? Why are we not honest about this particular field of activity? Admit that when these measures have come to the fore time after time we have supported them just as we will support this legislation. To me the real joke is the joke upon those members of the Conservative party who feel they are private enterprisers and free enterprisers.

I should like you to look at the statement "Operation Freedom" that the chamber of commerce has put forward and which is going to constitute their great campaign for 1962, and see how that squares with the kind of socialism that your great leader is pushing and extending in his so-called social justice legislation.

Mr. McDonald (Hamilton South): Mr. Chairman, we have just heard from one of the biggest blowers the New Democratic party has ever had.

Mr. Peters: Don't make your swan song.

Mr. McDonald (Hamilton South): The hon. member at the back over there is always babbling like a brook.