

The Address—Mr. Picard

our country, but I strongly approve those that bring about social security and old age security. That is one of the most important fields in which good can be done for the masses. The time has gone when the masses of the world could be held in ignorance, or could be abused. There is temptation everywhere in the world to listen to the advice of those who would offer panaceas and remedies, but those remedies are the ones we do not want in Canada. We know that the way to keep the people of Canada more satisfied is to give them a better life, to give them security in life, while maintaining our democratic form of government.

If the people feel that governments understand their needs, and if a larger and larger number of people can have a decent standard of living, we will be further away from the methods of communism.

It is all very well to say that all people are born free and that all have the same opportunity. Less than two hundred years ago the French revolution attacked many of the evils which existed at that time, and much is owed by humanity to the Encyclopedists and those who helped to overthrow the old regime. Man from then on was recognized as being equal to man, in principle. But from the moment of his birth one man is not equal to another man. He may be born of a father who is sick. He may be born of people who are intelligent, or of people who are not. He may be born of people who have money, and who have succeeded in life, or of people without means. Although in principle man is equal to man, life immediately sets in motion factors which make sure that there is no real equality.

Then life goes on, and one man with the same work and application may succeed while another may fail. Some religious people will say that those who succeeded had the help of Providence. Others will say they succeeded through chance. Others will give some other reason. But there is one imponderable element, which can be hardly known in the life of every human being, and which brings about inequality. For such cases a program of social security is needed. For such cases we are taking a step in the right direction when we do what the minister has done in connection with old age pensions.

In this regard I would not be consistent if I did not tell the minister that I am quite disappointed to see that invalids and the infirm are not looked after properly in the new legislation. Good reasons will no doubt be given for this. In his speech the minister brought forth the argument, which I did not think was as strong as the rest of his speech, that most of these people are covered by the new regulations because they are 65 years of

age or over. I see people in my own constituency, and I know they exist in others, for whom something more than the present regulations is required. I think the time has come when they should be given some allowance. The minister said there were very few of these who do not come within the law. Well, if there are so few, why not bring about a remedy? It would not cost very much. I gave the figures to the house on an earlier occasion, in another debate, as to the cost in other countries, so I shall not repeat them at this time. I do repeat that in my opinion it is high time something more was done in this regard.

As I should like now to turn to another subject, perhaps I might be permitted to continue at eight o'clock.

At 6.15 p.m. the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Picard: Mr. Speaker, as I was leaving the chamber this afternoon after the house took recess someone asked me what I meant when I said that I approved of some of the things I had seen in Yugoslavia. I do not of course approve of the form of government they have there; but I found that since 1948, when they broke with Russia, there has been considerably more personal liberty, although this may not apply to political liberty as we understand it in our democracies. Considerable effort has been made to bring about a betterment in the position of the masses of the people. I do not agree with many of the things that have been done, but I have been favourably impressed by others. While it may not be from sympathy, the fact is that today they are friends of the west and as such deserve whatever help the United Nations or the United States may give them. This help would be used against our eventual common enemy should ever there be a clash, because the leaders there, and I talked with many, while not pro-west are decidedly anti-soviet union. While they will certainly never revert to our form of government, they are far away from the Russian form.

I consider that the experiment going on there constitutes the third application of the ideas or principles of Marx. We had as the first application the mild British version which originated with the Fabians and which was translated afterward into the policies of the Labour party. Then we had the extreme Russian application of Marxist principles that evolved into state capitalism and Stalinist