

the only reason there is a deadline—for the first and perhaps the last time in my life in this house I am in agreement with the leader of the Social Credit group—is that St. James street says it must be on a financial basis. It was not the desire of members of parliament, and most emphatically it is not the desire of the taxpayers of Canada, as I see it to-day.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Before this motion carries, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word following the remarks of the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce), because I think he misunderstood the position. I did call the bill a callous betrayal, and I repeat it; it is a callous betrayal of the soldiers of the last war and of this war. But in saying that I had no intention whatever of casting any slur on the committee in regard either to its sympathy or to its industry. I would ask the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce) now if he felt that the committee got all it wanted. Was the bill as good as the committee wanted it to be?

Mr. BRUCE: I have no hesitation in answering that question. It is as good a bill as we thought we could give them at this time. I would like to ask the hon. member this question. If his remark was not a reflection upon the members of the committee, upon whom was it a reflection?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I would say that probably it was a reflection on the individual whose will set bounds on the ability of the committee to achieve its desire.

Mr. BRUCE: Nobody ever set any bounds on my wishes in respect to my independence on that committee.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I think I will leave my statement at that, Mr. Speaker, with the support I gave it in my remarks last evening. If the hon. member will read my last night's speech right through; if he will take the declarations made between 1914 and 1917 by the then leader of the government to the men overseas; if he will consider also the statement made by the pension committee in 1937, together with the fact that we Canadians have never done anything to betray our promises with respect to our bonds, I believe he will have to agree with my statement. We have paid our bond interest, whether we could or could not; we have kept our bonds up to date whether we could or could not. We did not stop to think whether we could do it; we were going to do it, and we did it. We are still going to do it, and we are doing it. We have never stopped to ask if we could afford to do it. We simply said it was the right

[Mr. Cruickshank.]

thing to do and that we were going to do it. Of course, if we say it is the right thing to give a man a square deal, we could do that also.

Mr. CLEAVER: And we have.

Mr. BLACKMORE: —not. I think I have said enough on that point.

Now I am going to say one other thing to the hon. member for Parkdale. Surely he will not say that the bill is as good as the act which was in force in 1939, when the war broke out. This bill does not compare favourably with the former bill, as was acknowledged by the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie) himself yesterday. And the reasons were pointed out. Surely the hon. member for Parkdale would not contend for a moment that in 1939 we had perfect pension legislation, or that we had an act which gave a full measure of justice to these returned men. In this country we have men who receive large pensions and who at the same time occupy positions which yield large salaries every year. These men are scarcely more worthy than many men who get no pensions, who can get no positions, who have become objects of public charity and in many cases are practically kicked about from pillar to post. My firm, definite, and I believe immovable stand is that while there is in this country a man who wore the king's uniform, who fought in France for our liberty, who at the present time cannot get work and is suffering by reason of that fact, the mere presence of that man in this country so suffering is a reflection on Canada and constitutes evidence that this bill is a callous betrayal of that man.

Mr. CLEAVER: I would ask the hon. gentleman to name one man in the position he has just mentioned. I challenge him to do so.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It is an easy matter to name men of this kind, but the hon. member has no right to challenge me to do it. If he would just give me time to go to my office I could almost fill *Hansard* with the names of these men. There is no question about it. All the hon. member has to do is walk down the streets of Ottawa instead of driving around in a taxi, and he will see plenty of these men. The trouble with the hon. member is that he spends his time in taxis and high class hotels; consequently he does not know the condition that exists on our streets and in our parks, where these men are to be found.

Mr. CLEAVER: Does the hon. gentleman say that I, an ex-secretary of the Canadian Legion in my home town, know nothing about the problems of the returned men?