

Government Orders

CN profits dropped last year 27 per cent. Can you imagine the kind of increases they would have received if their profits had gone up? I do not know. But my imagination is stirred. What did the workers get, Mr. Speaker? Four and a half per cent. These guys at the top who are so concerned about inflation did not content themselves with 4.5 per cent. Not on your life.

• (1610)

Yes, there is a crisis in confidence in this country. Let us not forget while we are on this theme that these people who are so concerned about inflation, about Canadians not overspending and tightening our belts. What about the Governor of the Bank of Canada, the biggest creature of them all? What did he get in the last one or two years? Did he get a 5 per cent, or 10 per cent or 15 per cent increase? Not on your life. According to information, it was more like 20 or 25 per cent. It is very sad and it hurts. I think that Canadians deserve a lot better.

Let me touch on some other things. This is something that is not addressed in this House very often. It is the Canadian pension plan. We all contribute to it and it dates back more than 20 years. It is a great idea that all Canadians contribute into a general pot, as it were, providing a nest egg for all of us at our retirement. It sounds good in theory and it is good in theory. It is also very good in practice if it is run and operated properly.

What kind of a situation are we in with respect to the Canada Pension Plan? I will tell you the kind of situation we are in. According to documents, four years back in 1986, Canada's chief actuary said that the CPP fund was underfunded by \$230 billion. That is a lot of money. What is it today? We do not know, Mr. Speaker, but we can tell you that when it comes to the Canada Pension Plan things are getting worse, not better. The reason is we are not paying the full cost of CPP. According to the actuarial tables, Canadians should be paying about 8 per cent of their salaries or their income into the Canadian pension plan. The fact of the matter is, they are paying 4.2 per cent. Plainly the plan is underfunded and we are heading for serious trouble.

In fact, I was listening to the president of the Canadian Chartered Accountants Association on CBC Radio not

too long ago. He should know what he is talking about, particularly when it comes to CPP. What did he say? I do not know how old he is or exactly when he is going to retire, but he said he was not counting on the Canadian pension plan. In other words, he believes, as a lot of Canadians believe, that the Canadian pension plan is heading for bankruptcy and that the crunch will come probably around the turn of the century.

We have to ask ourselves, when it comes to CPP, if we should count on a retirement income that we have not paid for. It is more than just a fiscal or a pension question, it is really a moral question. If we have not paid or properly supported that fund should we expect the kind of moneys that are outlined when our retirement comes? I do not think so. Also, I do not think it is fair to future generations. What will happen is that somewhere down the line there will be a hard choice. Either taxes or premiums will have to be raised sharply if we want to continue the plan, or we could let the plan go asunder. I do not think many Canadians would want that.

I know in a discussion of this kind the parameters are very wide. I have learned that little bit of knowledge since coming to the House.

Let me touch on something else. You may not think it has anything to do with the borrowing bill, and you could make that argument, but I go forward anyway. It has to do with the David Milgaard case. This man has been in the penitentiary for 21 years. It is a long time. He is perhaps Canada's longest serving inmate. He claims, as a lot of criminals claim, that he is in the penitentiary for a crime he never committed. There is more than just his word. There is his action and some evidence as well.

His action is that he refuses to admit to the crime because he says he did not murder the girl in Saskatoon in 1969. He has paid a high price for that. The price is that he is denied parole. One of the basic tenets of parole in this country is that before you get parole you must admit to your crime. David Milgaard refuses to do that. He has never been paroled in 21 years. I think he has had a few day passes, but that is all.

There is more to it than that. A couple of years ago a leading forensic expert on the west coast, Dr. Ferris, said after studying the case that with the availability of new forensic technology and knowledge, it was impossible for