

*Canada Pension Plan*

**Mr. Monteith:** They do not go as far as the Liberal election campaign propaganda claimed they would go. But then that does not seem to worry the government; nor does it mean that we should not support even this abbreviated version of what was promised us. I shall now read one or two sentences from the Liberal propaganda of the election campaign of 1962.

**Mr. Balcer:** Oh, spare us.

**Mr. Monteith:** I quote:

People will be able to start drawing a contributory pension at age 65 if they wish. There will be benefits for disabled people, widows and orphans.

We know that last sentence was a complete fabrication of the imagination. We tried in 1962—as promised in the speech from the throne—to obtain the consent of the provinces for that very purpose, and we failed when Quebec did not give that consent. An amendment to the constitution is required for this purpose. The government knows it now, and knew it then, but held out this promise of action. There are no survivor benefits in this plan, in the real meaning of the term; we know that. Nor are there benefits for disabled people, widows and orphans. I should like to read another section of the Liberal campaign literature, which is as follows:

The Liberal plan will add a contributory pension to the existing old age pension. The addition will be paid for entirely by contributions, not by taxes.

We know what has happened, as I mentioned earlier. Only by being forced by the opposition to give this extra \$10 to old age pensioners did it ever come into force; otherwise it would not yet be in force.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Monteith:** Despite a promise not to increase taxes, this was done. Mr. Chairman, I have here a full page advertisement which appeared in the *Daily Colonist* of Victoria, British Columbia, of March 31, 1963. Obviously the Liberals had a great deal of money for election purposes. Here it is. I should like to refer to the section headed "Pensions". How misleading this all is. It is utter misrepresentation. I am not going to read it all, but there is a long paragraph concerning the amounts of pension to be paid. We now know how misleading this paragraph was because the amounts have all been changed. Incidentally, I think it should be pointed out that this government has been waffling all over the place in many respects, and I am just wondering if even now they have made up their minds.

It will be recalled, and it is set out in this advertisement, that the maximum earnings

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to be covered by pension were to be \$6,000 a year. Then last July 18 they said the maximum was to be \$4,000 a year and now we understand that the maximum earnings to be covered will be \$4,500 a year.

Here again we have it pointed out that this scheme is supposed to provide pensions for the disabled and for widows and orphans. How completely misleading. We were given to understand that assistance was to be available to single women and widows at age 60. It says so here in the advertisement. Certainly there is no mention of that in the press release by the Prime Minister.

I note also that the Liberals promised to increase old age assistance to \$75 a month and to increase disabled and blind pensions to \$75 a month. You know quite well, Mr. Chairman, that these things were not brought into legislation until the government was forced to do so by all opposition parties last autumn. Then, of course, those particular increases came into effect two months after old age security payments had been increased. The disabled, the blind and the aged were forced to forgo increased pensions for two months because of the dilatory action of the government.

In the 1963 campaign pamphlet we find more of the same thing. I am not going to go into detail, except to say that the Madison avenue approach of hoodwinking the people has been adopted by the government, and the people of Canada have been misled by this kind of misrepresentation.

Particularly due to the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister of National Health and Welfare intimated in her speech of July 18 last that the Conservative party when in office had done very little so far as social security is concerned for the people of this country, I want to put a few things on the record. Let us see what the situation was when we came into office in 1957.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, no.

**Mr. Monteith:** I know you do not want to hear it.

**An hon. Member:** Keep reading.

**Mr. Monteith:** Perhaps the hon. member for Rosedale could sit and listen for a change.

**Mr. Macdonald:** Mr. Chairman, I am waiting for the hon. member to say something, for a change.

**Mr. Monteith:** I repeat, let us see what the situation was when we came into office in 1957. The previous government had had a succession of surpluses, and only as election bait in the budget of 1957 did they bring in an increase of \$6 a month in old age security payments.