

*Canada Pension Plan*

Many companies retire men at 65 but women at 60. Earlier assistance will therefore be made available to women, in co-operation with the provinces.

At the bottom of this advertisement appears the names of all Liberal candidates in British Columbia and the Yukon. The name which leads all the rest is that of Tom Kent, who ran in Burnaby-Coquitlam. I mention his name particularly because the former candidate for Burnaby-Coquitlam is a more influential individual in respect of this matter of pensions.

Mr. Chairman, I must remind Liberal members of these promises which were made during the last election campaign. Perhaps everyone in Canada is not a cynic and can just dismiss campaign promises after an election, but I received a call from a woman recently who is in her early sixties and is in a difficult financial position. That woman considered this advertisement rather seriously and fully expected that when the Canada pension plan was introduced her situation would be looked after. To be quite honest, I had not noticed this particular advertisement and did not realize that this promise had been made until this lady brought it to my attention, but I can assure you that she did take it very seriously.

**Miss LaMarsh:** May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Surely he is not indicating to the committee that that advertisement, which sets out the commitment of the Liberal party, which is also a commitment of this government, is a part of the Canada pension plan?

**Mr. Prittie:** I am not suggesting that it forms part of the Canada pension plan, but it was part of the Liberal party election campaign program for pensions and social security. Perhaps this is just an objective, but under the heading "Health Care" appears the following:

The objective of the Liberal party is to establish, in co-operation with the provinces, a medical care plan for all Canadians.

That has been an objective ever since I was born in 1919. I think that this was an objective, but in this particular case it would certainly appear that this was something which was to be introduced within a very short period of time.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest this question of election promises is something that we should take very seriously, since we may be involved in that game again soon. It is very well to—

**The Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Prittie:** Mr. Chairman, I am still on the subject in reference to—

**The Chairman:** Order. I was just wondering whether the hon. member has just launched his election campaign, or whether he is proposing now to consider the legislation now before this committee.

**Mr. Prittie:** Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with old age security and trying to point out that there is a group of individuals not covered by this proposition, but who should be covered. I merely intend to say in connection with elections that it is all very well to make promises about building causeways to certain islands, because when those promises are not lived up to no one is hurt very badly. On the other hand when statements of this kind are made and people expect to be assisted in regard to their financial problems, these statements should be made in a serious vein.

I would conclude my remarks by making a plea to the minister and to the former candidate for Burnaby-Coquitlam to do something about this particular problem. I made some inquiries and as far as I can determine there are no discussions under way with the provinces to amend the Old Age Assistance Act.

**Miss LaMarsh:** Oh, surely my hon. friend cannot say that. If he was present in the house he heard me say that there is a meeting in less than two weeks with the ministers of welfare, and that we discussed this matter over a year ago and are continuing these discussions. I said this only an hour or two ago.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Ten years from now you will still be having discussions.

**Mr. Prittie:** I must admit I did not hear the hon. lady say that, but I am very glad to hear that she did. There is only one other point I want to make in connection with the particular subject under discussion, old age security and payment at the age of 65. A few minutes ago the Minister of National Revenue made some comments about the cost of the proposal which had been advanced by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and myself. He mentioned a figure in excess of \$1½ billion next year if our proposal were introduced. I suggest that if the will is there the government can find the money to do these things. They have not exhausted all sources of revenue. He suggested that if our ideas concerning pensions were implemented all of the taxes under the formula for old age security would have to be raised. I sug-