

those benefits. These people are entitled to them. Surely those of us in society who are working and drawing incomes should recognize with appreciation the contribution that has been made by Canada's senior citizens through two world wars and a depression. We should not begrudge them what is necessary to grow old in dignity and without fear.

As was disclosed today this government can afford to spend \$1 million in advertising for the UIC, on one program. Surely that money would be better directed in paying for the spouses' allowances for widows. There are numerous other examples of where this money could be found without asking that this government's extraordinary deficit be increased at all.

There is one other area I would like to touch on before closing and that is the question of the government's handling of the economy and the effect it has had on the weakest and poorest in our society. The cruellest tax imposed by any government is the tax of inflation. Take, for example, a couple who retired in December 1968, the year the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) came to power and who had life savings of \$25,000. In December, 1977, that money would have been worth only \$13,710. Literally thousands of senior citizens and pensioners have found their life savings stolen from them by the cruel tax of inflation, an inflation that this government has been unable to control.

Surely the time has come when the government must get serious about inflation. It must recognize that we cannot continue to have a year over year inflation increase of 9.5 per

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cent. We must recognize that inflation most cruelly attacks the weakest and the least able to look after themselves, such as people who will have their spouses' allowances cancelled if the senior pensioner dies. I think that all Canadians and certainly all members of this House should be made aware of the hardships—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Andres: Mr. Speaker, I was accused by the member of talking this bill out. I have given him an opportunity to speak. The member on the opposite side is talking the bill out.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, that is a spurious point of order and it is beneath the dignity of the House to put up with that. I ask that the question be put and support given to this bill.

Mr. John Campbell (LaSalle-Émard-Côte Saint-Paul): Mr. Speaker, I have only a few seconds to rebut some of the foolishness which has been tossed towards the government. When hon. members realize all of the services that have been provided for senior citizens in past years, I am sure—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order. It being five o'clock p.m. this House stands adjourned until Monday next at two o'clock in the afternoon, pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At five o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.