

No one speaks because he does not know;
No one rises because he dare not rise.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE: My hon. friends may laugh, but they cannot tell us. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) will not rise. No one sits closer to a job unfinished than he. I take second place to no man in my desire to give security to the people of Canada. I have suffered as much as any hon. member of this house in my regard for the problems of the labouring men and the poor people of this country, but I view the payment of cash bonuses to large families with well-founded doubt. When I think of the potential fathers of this nation battling far from home and dying to save our freedom, I can only see the acceptance of this reckless political bid for power at this time by any party as a piece of callous cynicism.

Great over-all schemes have been heralded by this government for many years. I have sat here and listened to them being announced periodically for periodic purposes. We have listened to the glittering generalities of security in the speech from the throne, and we recently heard about this preelection bid of cash hand-outs to families. These are not plans for health and welfare; these are government cheques for favour and popularity. This is cash which may not be spent for health or welfare. It can be spent according to the dictates of the father of the family who receives the cheque. Is there any assurance that these cheques will be used to pay dental bills or in connection with the health and welfare of the children? No. We believe that Canadians want most of all reasonable assurance of gainful employment and the dignity of self-support. We on this side of the house believe that under a sound social economy, dependency and poverty, with its sickness and suffering must be dealt with as a national problem. The party to which I belong does not take second place to any party in this house in its desire and determination to assure the provisions for a sound social security programme for this young dominion.

An hon. MEMBER: You are taking in a lot of territory.

Mr. ROWE: It does not take much territory to take you in. In order to establish a workable scheme by which a sound health and welfare programme may be made effective, I urge upon the government that they set up at once a dominion-provincial welfare and assistance fund. Why fool with this issue. As a first payment the dominion should contribute to that fund a sum at least equal to our present contribution to the united nations

relief and rehabilitation administration. We are not afraid to be specific as to where we stand on the question of social protection for our people. I hear my hon. friends on the other side laughing, but they have followed their same policy since 1919; they have not changed it in twenty-five years, except to bring it out and dust it off for election purposes.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): You have changed leaders five times.

Mr. GRAYDON: You are going to change to another one now.

Mr. ROWE: Your leader may still be your head, but he will change places after the next election. The immediate steps by which we would expect to get our programme into motion are as follows:

1. The establishment of a dominion-provincial welfare and assistance fund, to which I have referred.

2. Set up a competent body of experts, nominated by all parties in the house, to examine the ill-conceived and half-digested proposals now suggested by the government, and report upon them. This body might be the reorganized social security committee of the house or a specially appointed commission of inquiry. In either case, its task would be to consider the problem of social welfare in its entirety as a national problem, and not as an exigency of party politics.

3. The summoning of qualified persons nominated by the provinces to confer with the commission of inquiry set up by this parliament.

4. To convene the representatives of the provinces for a dominion-provincial conference as each item of an integrated programme reaches the stage of report.

5. To free the financial assistance, in the way of public health grants to provincial governments, from the unworkable insurance sections of the proposed national health and insurance act, and make them immediately available to the provincial governments.

6. To extend grants from the dominion-provincial welfare fund to each province in accordance with its needs so that it may enlarge its hospital facilities, nursing services and clinics in urban, rural and hinterland areas. Under this heading also we suggest that the dominion government share with the provinces the burden of new capital expenditure for hospitals, convalescent homes and homes for the aged. This can be done by the provision of funds, grants of federal land, buildings and equipment.

7. To raise the standard of nutrition by education and by assisting the marketing and