

The Address—Mr. Dumont

of parliament comes from people who are in need, such as old age pensioners and retired civil servants. There are about 45,000 retired civil servants and widows in the country. I have not yet heard from them all but it is getting pretty close to it. I welcome their letters and their support and I hope that before long we will win their case. I also receive a great many letters from veterans, but in almost all cases they are from veterans who have to depend on the War Veterans Allowance Act. It has been a godsend for the past several decades, but it does seem to me that real improvements can be made to it, and I hope the Minister of Veterans Affairs will do his best to bring in legislation on his own initiative to increase the allowances or to minimize the effect of the various means tests, particularly where other government legislation is concerned, or, failing that, that he will at least refer the matter to the committee on veterans affairs.

I can imagine what some people will say about this kind of speech. Here again is the member for Winnipeg North Centre who wishes to increase the old age security pension to \$125 a month without a means or income test, who wants retired civil servants to receive increased pensions, and who wants war veterans allowances increased, and yet he has not said where the money is to come from. I make one suggestion. The government should look into the Carter report, particularly those sections of it which refer to those groups of people who are escaping taxation. No new rates need be imposed, nor does the income tax have to be increased. All that has to be done is to impose taxation on those sources of income that are escaping it, and the Carter report makes it clear where they are. The government will then have a sufficient amount of money to pay the various pension increases for which I plead, and a lot more.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am happy to express again my pleasure that you, sir, have been re-elected as the Speaker of this House of Commons. I look forward to the improvements in our procedures which I am confident we will make under your leadership. I wish to say again how delighted I am at the idea that we are going to work for a just society, for the eradication of poverty, for the millennium in Canada. But it will take a little while, it might even take five, 10 or 20 years. In the meantime, I want and I urge this

parliament to have enough human compassion and enough realization of what suffering means to do something at least for the three groups of people in whose name I speak this afternoon: our old age pensioners, our federal superannuates and our war veterans.

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your appointment to the office of Speaker of the house. I am convinced of your impartiality and I remain convinced that your eyes will often turn to us to allow us to ask the questions which are in the interest of the Canadian people, because the members of the Ralliement Cr ditiste are the voice of the people.

At the beginning of this speech, Mr. Speaker, I would like also to extend my warmest congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of committees on their appointment.

I would like also to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne (Messrs. Corbin and Marchand). Their eloquence would have impressed Louis XIII, and yet they remained true to the pomp imposed on us by the British parliamentary system.

I also wish to congratulate, in this house, the member for T miscamingue (Mr. Caouette), leader of the Ralliement Cr ditiste who, on September 16 last, celebrated the 22nd anniversary of his arrival to parliament. This worthy representative of the people was able to stir, in Canada, a feeling of pride in being a Canadian; in addition, he encouraged honest politics through the Ralliement Cr ditiste, refusing the help of election funds. It is costing our leader his health, his courage, his energy. Bourassa would be proud to hear a French Canadian fight for our rights with so much fairness. Indeed, after the great creditist speech he made last Monday night, I can say that we are at the dawn of a new era in Canada because the Social Credit will get rid of the obstacles created by man against national prosperity. The Canadian people, on their own initiative and by their own efforts, will bring about, through the Social Credit, an era of prosperity, liberty and security for all.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Since I represent here the riding of Frontenac, let me describe it for you. It lies south