

not be required yet for some months. I am sure that the Canadian people are not appreciative of these last-moment decisions that members of Parliament, strangled by time, have had to make. Let us hope that it will not happen again.

Honourable senators, in concluding my remarks may I depart from the subject of this bill? In a few days it will be the time for making our resolutions for the coming year. The new year will be Centennial Year—the only one that we senators will live to see. What could be finer for Centennial Year than for us to pledge ourselves to the promotion of highway safety? If by our efforts we prevent only one accident, and save one life, they will be well rewarded. This can be done by dedicating ourselves to improving our driving, obeying the rules of safe driving, becoming a defensive driver, reducing our speed, practising courtesy and, above all, always remembering that alcohol and driving lead to disaster.

Early in 1967 the Canadian Highway Safety Council will promote a safety program called "Hospitality on the Highway." The Council will need the assistance of every Canadian driver. Pamphlets, recommendations and advice will be publicized early in the new year by means of radio, television and other forms of information media. Let us associate ourselves with the Canadian Highway Safety Council, and do our part to ensure that Centennial Year will not go down in history as a year of highway massacre.

[Translation]

I would like to thank honourable senators and offer them my best wishes for the coming holiday season.

(Text)

Hon. Hazen Argue: Honourable senators, it is my pleasure at this time to add my voice in support of the measure now before this house. I wish to congratulate the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) for his full explanation, and Senator Croll for his outline of the very important work done by the Senate Committee and its advocacy of the guaranteed annual income. This measure is a great step forward and a valuable addition to the body of social security legislation of this country.

I have followed the remarks on this matter made by many leading citizens of our country, and I am pleased that the leadership that has been given demonstrates most clearly, at least to me, that this is but another step forward, with others to follow, in the building up of a body of social security legislation of which

this country can be proud. It is also proper that the Minister of Finance brought in his budget the other night to show that these things are not manna from heaven, that they are not gifts, but that they have to be paid for. The thinking public of this country will decide, I am sure, that this is a measure that can be afforded by our nation at this time.

The present Minister of National Health and Welfare, the honourable Mr. MacEachen, has done an admirable job in giving leadership in this field. I have read the speeches he has made across this country. They are most enlightening and advanced. His grasp of the fundamental political questions facing this country demonstrates to me that our nation is indeed fortunate in having a man of his calibre head the important portfolio of Health and Welfare.

Hon. Mr. Deschatelets: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Argue: As a nation, we have made great advances in the last few years—not all of them under any one government—in this field of social legislation. We have a medical care program. I know it will not come into effect for some time, but it has received support. I for one hope that when it does come into effect in the various provinces it will be comprehensive. I am convinced that it will not be confined to ordinary medical expenses as we know them, but that very soon after its implementation it will be extended in one province after another to include drugs, dental care and the like.

Honourable senators, I am new in this chamber. I have a great deal to learn—and I am learning, I hope—but I thought perhaps this afternoon we would hear some very able and impassioned speeches to the effect that the country needed to be more careful of its finances, that there is no inexhaustible fund from which monies can be obtained for this kind of social advance, but I have heard no remarks along those lines. In this august chamber, this chamber of sober second thought, those who have spoken seemed to say that the members of the other place have been too cautious, too careful, and that if this house would but give them some leadership we would go all out for these and other measures.

I am pleased to read that this bill passed the other place with only one dissenting vote, and that was not by a member of any official party. That particular member sits, I believe, as an independent. This legislation received in the other place, and I know it will receive in this chamber, the unanimous support of all