

*Old Age Security Act (No. 2)*

limit for those who can afford it and give full indexation in effect to those who need the GIS. And that is fair.

**Mr. Schroder:** That is a fact.

**Mr. Keeper:** Ask the Bishops.

**Mr. de Corneille:** I hope that I have put Bill C-131 back into the context of the battle against inflation, to protect the elderly who have more to lose from the ravages of inflation than any others in our society.

**Mr. Taylor:** Tell the Minister that.

**Mr. de Corneille:** As a Liberal, I am proud of our record, proud of our policies of sincerity, and of our consistent battle to maintain dignity for those who are elderly. I hope that when this legislation on six and five is passed and this battle against inflation is won we shall quickly resume our forward march to new legislation on behalf of the single pensioner, which probably will be received with great disapproval from those on the opposite benches who will not want any further social progress.

**Mr. Thacker:** You embarrass even the Pharisees.

**Mr. de Corneille:** But we shall carry forward and march to new legislation on behalf of the single pensioner and for a more effective pension scheme for all Canadians.

**Mr. Taylor:** Who wrote that stuff?

**Mr. de Corneille:** I pledge myself to continue my work on this course.

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, when one observes the Parliamentary Secretary who has just spoken one finds him to be very quick to learn from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). He said what he thinks the people want to hear, but then he and his Government went ahead and did the very opposite.

**Mr. Friesen:** And that is a fact.

**Mr. Halliday:** We hear the Hon. Member over there talking about concern for the social needs of the people of this country. And then the very Bill which the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) is talking about is a Bill to take away a social program from the people. It is that kind of hypocrisy with which his speech was laden. I hope the Hon. Member for Eglinton-Lawrence takes a second look at his speech in the clear light of day and realizes what he has been saying and compares it to what his Government has been doing over the last number of years.

Many things have been said about Bill C-131, but I want to look at it in the context of this Government over the last ten or 15 years. We have a context here of a Government that has been elected and tries to govern on the basis of sloganeering. For instance, we have heard such things as, "The land is strong; we are going to wrestle inflation to the ground"; "the just society", and now we have the six and five program which the Government has chosen to bring forward precisely at this time because the Government thinks it has guessed well. The

Government thinks it has chosen an opportune time to suggest to the Canadian people that a program of six and five, if it is publicized and marketed enough, will tie in fortuitously with the natural improvement in the economy which is bound to come. The Government has a special committee set up of people in the Prime Minister's office and from the Senate who are pushing and marketing this program of six and five. This is a slogan for the survival of the present Liberal Party.

We were provided a few months ago with a loose leaf document which is two or three inches thick. One extracted from that book, among other things, two pages with the heading "6 and 5 Strategy for the Next Three Months". It is interesting to see what this special committee of the Government proposes as strategy for the next three months. It explains what the Minister should do, what the ordinary Liberal backbencher should do. There are many points on the list, but No. 11 on the list reads:

Continued efforts be made to cut back Government expenditure in the spirit of 6 and 5 and demonstrate commitment to restraint;

That is the priority this Government puts on some type of expenditure restraint. No. 11 on that list is a marketing gimmick to try to sell to the people of Canada the need at long last to have some restraint in government spending. But we know the Liberal Government does not mean that. We have heard just this afternoon about the big gift to Maislin. We know about the \$600 million that was spent recently to buy an oil company that will return no new oil to this country at all. It is pure hypocrisy to think that the Government is serious about this. We know the Government's past record does not conform with that at all.

As we look at this whole thing in perspective, not only is this a needle into the senior citizens of this country, just as this phoney issue of six and five is, but we have this problem of closure and allocation of time. In this session we have had 15 instances when the present Government has instituted allocation of time or closure in order to cut off debate. As a matter of fact, since the beginning of this year, every single piece of Government legislation that has come before this House has been cut off by this Government. This Government has limited debate by the Opposition. This Government does not want to hear the truth about this kind of social program and how it is affecting in an adverse way the lives and the ability of our senior citizens to enjoy their lives in their advancing years. This is a double whammy at our senior citizens. This Government attacks them by slogans, trying to convince and con them into going along with this. We have heard the Parliamentary Secretary say the seniors want to be a part of this. He actually said that the senior citizens want to be a part of this restraint program for they get less real income. I do not believe that is true. I think he will hear when the next election comes that they did not appreciate his speaking on their behalf suggesting that they want to have less income at this time.

**Mr. de Corneille:** We will see.