

*Supply—National Health and Welfare*

to have one's heart bleed, and bleed in public, but if one does not make the necessary arrangements to achieve the goal of social well-being, all of that blood is wasted.

I should like now to deal with two or three specific matters upon which I should like some information from the minister. The first of these is the Canada Pension Plan. Other members will have similar cases to the one I am going to cite. This man worked for 27 years for a large company on the west coast, and he has qualified for the Canada Pension Plan. As a matter of fact, he had a good pension plan with this company, but it was integrated with the Canada Pension Plan. This has resulted in his pension being decreased somewhat. For the past year he has been laid off as the result of a stroke, and will never work again. He has a little investment income and would like very much to be able to pay in to the Canada Pension Plan in order to build up his pension. I know he cannot do so under existing Canada Pension Plan regulations. However, I wish the minister would explore ways and means of caring for people who are in this position. Here is a man who has paid into the Canada Pension Plan in good faith and who, because of an accident over which he had no control, now finds himself in a position where he will not receive the pension he thought he would receive. This man wants to build up his pension by his own efforts.

There is another feature about the Canada Pension Plan that I should like to mention. I do not know how the minister can work this out, but I wish he would explore the possibility with some of his officials. I have had many, many cases of this kind. There is a cut-off date, and a person must have paid into the Canada Pension Plan for three different years in order to qualify. Hon. members would be astonished if they knew how many people die before they can qualify, and whose dependants therefore are unable to qualify.

I know that if people do not meet the deadline and qualify, you cannot include them in the scheme without destroying the scheme. Surely, though, there should be some way of protecting the interest of a person who almost qualifies; there ought to be some special emergency fund or some way of meeting that situation.

Another point I want to raise is connected with the food and drug directorate. On several occasions a group of women from the Ottawa area have approached me with a problem, and this goes back to the minister's

predecessor. These women assure me that there are pills being distributed in the Ottawa area which are supposed to induce an abortion, and which do no such thing. The pills are being distributed by physicians, whose names these women have. They want these pills analysed by the food and drug directorate because it is felt the women ought to be advised that the pills do not induce an abortion. These women have checked and the pills have not brought on abortions. They are afraid the pills may have a very deleterious effect on body tissues or on general health. I should like to find out whether it would be possible for the food and drug directorate to make an analysis in such cases. It seems to me if there are such things being done and these women assure me they have documents to support their contention the food and drug directorate ought to be available to analyse the pills so the women could be told whether they are safe or harmful.

I have one more suggestion to make to the minister, which is not going to cost a great deal of money to the department or anyone else but would make a great deal of difference to the elderly people in this country. I know elderly people who are still vigorous enough that they desire to do small jobs such as babysitting or working around gardens. They do need every bit of extra revenue they can get. It seems to me that individual initiative would be encouraged if the means test ceiling were removed. If these people earn enough extra income to get into the category of regular taxpayers, then by all means tax them, the same as anybody else. However, over and over again people come to me and say, "I cannot take this job; if I do my pension will be cut."

The same situation applies to veterans and their dependants. It seems to me also that we waste a lot of money on social assistance because we will not allow these people to get off social assistance by their own efforts. We may say we do not have to pay social assistance because it comes out of the provincial treasury, but in the final analysis this money still comes from John Q. Public and Jane Q. Public. Why do we not remove this ceiling, so these people can go out and do whatever chores they can perform. Then, if they earn sufficient to get into the regular income tax bracket, just tax them the same as anyone else. I believe this makes good sense.

The government talks about making Canadians into first class citizens, and cutting

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