

Speech from the Throne

than any others in the world. One member went so far as to say that all we gave them was 40 cents a month or a total of \$80 a month. Mr. Speaker, hon. members know that is wrong.

An hon. Member: They know you are wrong.

An hon. Member: It is 42 cents a month.

Mr. Whelan: They know very well that with all the other benefits given to senior citizens, such as the supplement, the right to free hospitalization, free medicare, free dental care, free glasses, free drugs and low cost senior citizen apartments, if they can prove their need, that these senior citizens are better off than any others in the world. I challenge anyone to prove otherwise. Any politician that tells them any different is guilty of a misdemeanour.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1530)

Mr. Whelan: I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the county of Essex and the city of Windsor, which is the general area I represent, has more accommodation for senior citizens per capita than any other comparable area in Canada. The local municipalities, of course, deserve lots of credit for this, but we must also remember that at least 95 per cent of the money involved in these projects comes from the federal treasury. In many cases the province of Ontario, which administers the Ontario Housing Corporation, does not want to give anyone else credit for this, and acts as if the federal government did not exist.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Whelan: That provincial government thinks it is a nation unto itself.

An hon. Member: Shame.

Mr. Whelan: I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the area I represent is probably the most diversified area that any member represents in Canada. It is the most productive, both industrially and agriculturally, in all Canada. In agriculture, I understand that only one spot in North America is more productive than the area I represent, that other area being the San José Valley in California. These qualities do not mean, however, that my area does not have its problems. I have mentioned the great diversification. Let me refer to some of the people in my area. As I said, the people of my area probably are the most diverse in Canada.

Mr. Haidasz: And they are represented by one of the best Members of Parliament.

Mr. Whelan: The first group of people, who still are an important part of our population, is the French who came first as soldiers and later as settlers. Then, there are the Irish, Germans, Scots, English; later on came the Italians, Slovaks, Portuguese, Lebanese, Hungarians, Poles, Dutch, Roumanians, Russians, Greeks, Yugoslavs, Ukrainians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Serbs and Croatians. You name them, Mr. Speaker, and we have them. Also, Mr. Speaker, this area was the first area which offered freedom for African slaves coming from the nation to the south of us.

Mr. Haidasz: Are there any Conservatives there?

Mr. Whelan: These people came as immigrants, because Canada offered them freedom, as it still does today. There are other groups that I should mention, Mr. Speaker; I know that. We have them all and we are proud of them. They are the main reason for our productivity. They like the freedom and opportunities Canada offers. They know you can get on if you want to take a chance and accept a challenge. They are doing this every day. In that way, they are taking advantage of opportunities found in Canada.

Also, Mr. Speaker, these same people are involved in agricultural production, and they are very productive. They have brought their abilities with them and their desire to create and produce. However, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding all these qualities, we must remember one thing. All people, no matter in what part of this nation they reside, whether in the city of Windsor, the county of Essex or elsewhere in Canada, want to be properly compensated for their productivity. You may ask what I mean, and I will tell you. I mean, for the worker, a decent living for himself, his wife and family and, for the farmer, a decent return for his productivity and investment, so that he may obtain the same return as his city cousin. In both instances productivity, whether that of a city worker or of a farmer, must receive a return. Even the Canadian Labour Congress recognizes that those in well organized labour unions have kept ahead of the cost of living but that the unorganized people in most instances have not. The same holds true in agriculture. Some groups have not fared too badly, yet others have not done well even though they have been very productive. Actually, in many instances they have become so productive they have put themselves out of business.

You may wonder how this is possible. Who are some of these people, hon. members may ask? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, who some of them are. The poultry producers are a perfect example. Look around the country. How many empty poultry houses are there? I am told, and have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the statement, that without much effort we could produce within a year more than double the number of eggs Canadians could eat and more than twice the amount of poultry meat. However, we all know that it only takes overproduction of 1 or 2 per cent to create chaos in the market place as has happened in the past year not only in poultry products but, as well, in pork.

I congratulate the government, Mr. Speaker, for the aid it is giving to hog producers and for the aid it is giving wheat growers who produce grain for domestic consumption. It has been recognized that producers in these areas need assistance if they are to supply the cheapest, high quality food to any consuming public anywhere in the world.

Let us for the moment talk about some producers who are not being looked after so well, and who are just as productive. Let me speak first of those who produce the most nutritious food in the world, food containing more life giving substances than any other food grown by man anywhere. What is it, Mr. Speaker? It is grain corn. In Canada, today, we produce over 100 million bushels of such corn. Not long ago we produced only between 30 million and 40 million bushels. At that time we were not producing enough for our own consumption, and Canada imported every year about 20 million bushels of such corn