

*Canada Assistance Plan*

stand it, the proposal is that we sit until six o'clock this evening, then sit again from seven until eleven, and that we adjourn tomorrow at six o'clock. If it is proposed that this be made an order of the house, we agree.

**Mr. Cameron (High Park):** The suggestion, Mr. Speaker, apparently meets with almost unanimous approval and I would not like to say I am not in agreement. I should like to call attention to the fact that this does do away with private members hour today and tomorrow. In giving my consent I wish to make clear to the house that I think more consideration should be given to the rights of private members who have things which they wish to discuss in the hour reserved for private members.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. Is it agreed that the house dispense with private members hour at this time, and proceed until six o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There will be a recess for one hour and then the house will proceed from seven o'clock to eleven o'clock, and tomorrow the house will adjourn at six o'clock. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It is so ordered.

**CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN****ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM TO ASSIST PERSONS IN NEED**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill No. C-207 to authorize the making of contributions by Canada toward the cost of programs for the provision of assistance and welfare services to and in respect of persons in need.

**Mr. Langlois (Mégantic):** Mr. Speaker, I was referring to some of the past election promises which have been made. Well, at least I thank them for the promise. The only thing I am not happy about is that they did not hold to their promises. Perhaps they would argue the point that we do not have the money to give out; but what about the other possibility, the means of the people who need it? Do they have the means to wait for it? That is the first thing we should consider. This brings me back to the point made by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre when he pointed out that

[Mr. Knowles.]

regardless of who it might be, it is our duty as a government to see that each individual in this country receives enough for his basic needs. The minister in his bill stated this very well. He has considered pretty nearly all the aspects of this, but he has not considered it necessary to give them enough to fulfil these needs.

• (5:10 p.m.)

The government might be worried about where it is going to find the money, but let me tell them where they should begin looking for it. The country lost \$130 million as a result of questionable bankruptcies and income tax evasions. The government should take a look at the amount of interest that is being paid in this country—millions and millions each year—with a view to saving some money in that regard.

In this country we have a gross national product of \$56 billion and a population of only 20 million. If you divide that equally it would amount to approximately \$2,800 per person. What share do the people get of that production? A great many of our laws must be changed. We do many things in the way of aid at the wrong time and in the wrong areas. We must do things right, at the right time and in the right places.

There are many needy widows in this country who have two, three, four or more children to support, yet they receive \$10 per child, and a basic allowance for the mother, in order to exist. No mother can see to the needs of her children on \$10 a month. When a mother finds herself unable to provide properly for her children, they are taken by the government and placed in foster homes and the foster parents receive from \$35 to \$65 per month for their welfare. I know of some orphanages that receive up to \$120 for the support of children who are over 16 years of age. If foster parents require \$65 per month to support a child, and orphanages require \$120 per month per child how can anyone expect needy mothers to look after their children on \$10 a month per child? The government must have some consideration for the needs of these people. If provincial governments do not respect that need in an appropriate way, this government should force them to do so. Children are much better off living with their own mothers, rather than in foster homes or in orphanages.

I know of cases where husbands have died leaving older houses to their widows. These houses are worth in the neighbourhood of