

### *Guaranteed Income*

time being and that both levels of government should consider the real question as it affects human beings. Obviously, they are the ones whom all governments are elected to serve. That was accepted by all the ministers and the review is going forward taking into account the broad range of social policies that exist in Canada on all levels. They are being considered so as to try to sort them out and co-ordinate them in such a way that the bureaucratic jungle that exists in part in social security in Canada will be eliminated and that people will be served to the maximum.

In addition to that principle, there was a second one that I consider to be very important which relates to people as well, that is that the service that is provided by all levels of government to those in need in this country should be co-ordinated in such a way that individuals looking for assistance will not be shunted from pillar to post in their search of the right kind of institution or level of government to be of service. Personally, I describe that kind of approach as one where we will provide, in the long run I hope, what I would call a "one stop service centre" where municipal, provincial and federal government agencies will be housed under one roof so that individuals and communities will be able to go there and obtain assistance without the kind of red tape that often exists when people seek help from governments at present.

In addition to this, we feel that it is very important that we rationalize the whole question of social security in Canada. To that end, this paper has provided a whole series of suggestions to the provincial levels of government regarding what should be done. The objectives of the review are very simple: first of all, to provide an acceptable basic income to all Canadians without which they cannot adequately survive; second, to make sure that we provide universal access to the essential services required by people in this country, whether it be housing, hospital or medical care, legal aid or any other assistance; third, the objective is to provide assistance to people in emergency situations where the general over-all policies do not fit and to take their individual circumstances into account.

It is important in such a review that the various levels of government take into account the essential belief of all Canadians that in so far as possible we should be independent, that we should try to provide for ourselves and that the purpose of a social policy is to look after those who are unable to provide for themselves. The policy is a recognition of the principle of independence and its value, and a recognition of the need of interdependence so that others can look after those who are unable to look after themselves.

The elements involved in social security are pretty clear: first, the need for minimum wages in Canada at adequate levels; second, the need for insurance programs to provide a vehicle for those who try to provide for themselves so that they can look after themselves in cases of emergency requirements such as unemployment, sickness, injury, disability, hospital, medical assistance, and so forth; and third, to provide to those who are working at minimum or near minimum wages income supplementation so that they can provide for themselves without being forced to seek assistance under various welfare or social assistance programs.

[Mr. Cafik.]

I think that any real worthwhile social security system in Canada that will be developed as a consequence of this important review must be acceptable to the people of this country. That is inherent in any program that is brought forward in a democracy. That program must reflect and not distort the social values that are held by Canadians. The program must be in harmony with and not opposed to the real economic forces that exist in our country. It must be fair and humane and understand the real human needs of people. It must be fair, not only to the recipient, but to the person who pays the bill, namely, the taxpayer. It must be designed in such a way that it will effectively combat poverty in this country. It must be a system that is simple and understandable to the people who will use it. It must be capable of being effectively administered so that there is no wastage of funds in the administration of it and so that the majority of resources do not go to running the system rather than to those who are in fact in need of help. It must complement and be accessible to the people of this country and take into account the institutional services that already exist, some of which will continue to exist after the review.

● (1630)

In the social policy review the federal government, through the Department of National Health and Welfare, came forward with 14 basic propositions for consideration by the provincial governments. I would like to run through them very briefly.

The first proposition is that whatever we decide on, it must not provide a disincentive to work. It must be an effective instrument to provide a real meaningful incentive for people to work.

The second proposition is to assure that governments, on all levels, do everything possible to make sure that work is provided for those who need work.

The third proposition deals with a community employment program where both levels of government, through co-operation, should establish ways and means of taking up a shortfall in employment where the private sector cannot always achieve it, by providing some level of community employment that is socially useful and necessary.

The fourth proposition is to assure that the system provides social insurance and incentive to our people to save for themselves today, and also in the future.

In addition to this, in terms of an income supplementation strategy, which is a very important element of the review, proposition five deals with the need for family allowance increases. On that subject the paper recommended that there would be nearly a threefold increase in family allowances from an average of \$7.21 a month at that time, to an average of \$20 a month across Canada. Not only is that a proposition and a recommendation, but in fact it has indeed been implemented at this particular time.

Those family allowance changes have increased federal expenditures from 1973-74 to 1974-75 by \$1,072 million dollars. That is a lot of money to provide a higher level of income to those who are looking after children, and who have an obligation to do so. It has a tremendous impact on providing a greater incentive to work because that amount of money is automatically, obviously, added to the money that people earn when they