

Canada Pension Plan

thought I could contribute towards solving them. If I had thought that solving problems meant sweeping them out the door, I should not have come here and the people should not have sent me here because those problems could have been swept out the door without my help. It is parliament and the House of Commons which should settle the problems of these people.

These people are engaged in farming but they are not good Canadian citizens because they acknowledge no loyalty to the country, even those who are born in Canada. This is hard to understand. That is why I took out of the library a copy of this study carried out by a group of respected men. The Hutterites themselves acknowledge that the government is a servant of God and that they will obey the wishes of government. The government has spoken and said that everybody in Canada should contribute to the Canada Pension Plan. The plan is portable. You may never collect from it, but if you need to, it will be there. If we are going to allow one group the choice of opting out, then I say we should give other groups the same right. I say: do not bring in a bill which allows a couple of groups not to take part if they were incorporated before 1966. Many churches have been formed since then.

If we are to allow churches a choice—and this includes strict religious sects—then we should allow them to opt out in the future as well as now, whether they were formed before 1966 or after. It seems to me that if we are to have good roads over which to bring our produce to market and if we are to have a good hospital with many doctors and nurses and all the necessary modern technology at our disposal to protect our families, then we should all without exception contribute to that investment fund. Then, the provinces would not be forced to go to New York forever to borrow. The investment fund idea is sound, but everybody should contribute to it, everybody who is prepared to use it and reap the benefits from it. That is the basis for it.

● (1550)

I have figures here for the province of Alberta. I have not totalled them up precisely, but \$525 million has been borrowed by Alberta since 1966, and it is supposed to be a wealthy province. The province of Ontario, last year alone, borrowed \$544 million from this fund.

I know that the Amish people of Mennonite people in some parts of Ontario also want to be exempted from contributing to this fund. They are not as businesslike people as the Hutterites. They still do their farming in what might be called an outmoded manner. But they use the roads, their children go to schools, and in cases of severe sickness they use the hospitals.

In 1971-72 Ontario borrowed \$498 million, in the year before that \$476 million, and in 1969-70 \$412 million. We can see that there have been huge borrowings from the fund by the richest province of all. It has borrowed an average of \$450 million per year since the inception of the Canada Pension Plan in order to build a better province, to build better roads, better hospitals and better schools. I believe that all citizens, whether or not they acknowledge their citizenship, should be forced to contribute to the building of a province. We ask corporations, whether they be international corporations, American corporations or

[Mr. Horner (Crowfoot).]

Japanese corporations, to pay taxes to help build the facilities we desire.

It may be said that there are only a few of these people, that they are nice people, and they do not mean anybody any harm. That is all very true. But I point out that in the province of Alberta the Hutterite sect owns as much land as would encompass all of Prince Edward Island. So, while we might be talking about only a few individuals, collectively they own a large area of Canada. I say that we are exempting too large a proportion of the population from the provisions of the plan. We are exempting the owners of a huge land tract in Alberta, a huge land tract in Saskatchewan, and another huge land tract in Manitoba. I do not know how large a tract is involved in Ontario.

Mr. Reid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I intervene to say that there have been discussions among the parties on how to deal with the debate this evening. My understanding is that we will begin at four o'clock, bypass private members' hour, rise for supper at the normal hour, resume at eight o'clock, and then conclude as specified under the terms of Standing Order 26.

Mr. Bell: We agree.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Is there unanimous agreement to this procedure?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, the time allotted to me will now expire at four o'clock. I have dealt at length with this subject matter because here we are dealing with a principle. Either the plan is compulsory and includes everybody, or it is not. The Conservative party at one time was a great party for principle. It believed in sticking up and standing up for principle.

Mr. Dinsdale: It still is.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Some say it still is. I do not like to think that it does not, but we should treat all people equally. If we want to mention religious people, that is fine, even though I do not like that attitude because it narrows the scope. I notice some members of the NDP nodding their heads. They are unitarians, and maybe there would be some difficulty in interpreting that as religion. However, everybody should have a choice. I say we should not stipulate the year 1966. Some great religious sects may still spring up in Canada that may wish to guard zealously their communal being. Their members may not want to acquire social security numbers. They should be entitled to the same privilege.

Before closing I wish to say that if I am present in the House I will not grant unanimous consent for this bill to be dealt with in slipshod fashion. I want it to go to a committee, so that these groups can appear before it and defend their position that they should be let out of the plan. Can they tell us that what I have said about their possessions is all wrong, that what I have said about their land holdings in Alberta is all wrong?

I don't care if the Minister of National Health and Welfare has a headache. He has plenty of doctors in that department to give him pills for it. I am not shrinking