

War Veterans Allowance Act

the restraints in an outdated and inhuman financial system, it would certainly be possible to do more for them without anyone having to suffer for it.

We of the Social Credit Party uphold a principle that we believe must be the cornerstone of any society that is founded on a logical economic basis.

• (1610)

It is the principle of making financially possible all that is physically realizable.

People expect credit like children awaiting Santa Claus. We have the required people, machines and wealth to get our economy moving. Yet, because of the government's belief that credit is the basis of economic activities rather than man, machines and wealth, there is more than half a million unemployed in the country.

The unemployed are aware of the immense wealth of the country and they only want them to be available to everybody. They are justified in asking what the government is waiting for to utilize this wealth.

Mr. Speaker, this is what the Creditistes mean when they ask to make financially possible all that is physically realizable. We have the manpower, the tools and machines which are the basis of our economy. Credit now calls for the achievement of all physically feasible developments.

Let us get off the beaten path. Let us leave the rough and bumpy road of the present financial system which leads us from one economic crisis to another and prevents us from reaching a just society.

As far as veterans are concerned the social and economic security program of the Social Credit party is the ideal long-term solution. Of course, in the present circumstances and the present system we approve of the government granting increases to those who have suffered and fought for their country and that is why we support this bill.

However, I wish to remind hon. members of this House that the social and economic security program of the Social Credit party offers an interesting alternative to the numerous weaknesses of all existing social aid systems administered by the government.

We are proposing a guaranteed annual income to be paid to all Canadians—including veterans—of 18 and over, and without exception. Not 18 year old veterans because we know they are older than that.

First of all, any single man would receive \$1,200 a year; if he is married, in addition to receiving benefits for both himself and his wife he would receive \$250 a year for each child.

Tax exemptions would be set at \$2,500 a year for a single man and \$5,000 for a married couple, with an additional exemption of \$500 for each child.

If a soldier who fought for his country returns disabled, he will receive an additional disability benefit of \$200 a month if he is single and \$350 if he is married.

It is evident that this system would do away with all the troubles and detours which are found in the present system. Everybody is entitled to social security benefits; it is a right of all individuals. Benefits would be distributed

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

without any inquiry or intrusion into the personal lives of people.

This is what we advocate for the future as a great improvement on the bill now before us.

If the government is not ready to offer anything better to those who fought for their country, we will feel compelled to support this legislation because we want our veterans to get as much as possible in return for the sacrifices they willingly made with great self-denial.

However, we want to remind the government that Bill C-148 is already obsolete and that the social and economic security program of the Social Credit Party is the solution that all Canadians have been anxiously expecting.

Our veterans are certainly still entitled to more gratitude from the whole population. Most of them gave the best years of their lives and sacrificed the benefits of family life. Others gave up their studies or a trade or profession that would have allowed them to earn a better living while remaining in their environment.

I for one, have always entertained a great deal of respect for those brave men who never feared to risk their lives for the defence of our liberties. We owe them a great deal of gratitude, and merely praying them by service is not enough, we must do something. And how could we better bear testimony to it than by improving the legislation of concern to them, allowing them to enjoy the security and the freedom for which they fought?

Last summer, accompanied by other hon. members, I had the pleasure of visiting the Normandy beaches where thousands of Canadian soldiers landed to liberate old France for the second time in half of century.

One has to visit the cemeteries where thousands of our Canadian brothers were laid to rest, having died on the field of honour, to understand the atrocities of war and the courage the Canadian soldiers have shown.

Going through those cemeteries and looking at the markings on the tombstones, it is with great emotion that we read the names of young Canadians whose ages vary from 19 to 25 years, who, nonetheless, also had the right to live.

Each year, the Remembrance Day ceremonies remind us that our generation has been through two world wars whose victims were many and whose consequences many families are still bearing.

Last fall, I attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Montmagny. They started with a religious service at which were present a great number of the Quebec area war veterans, some cadets of the Canadian army, as well as the Royal 22nd Regiment magnificent band, which had been authorized by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) to come to Montmagny for the occasion. And I take this opportunity to thank the Minister of National Defence for that commendable gesture with which all the people were very much pleased.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were the wives, the widows and the children of war veterans as well as members of families of former soldiers killed in the war.

When wreaths were laid in memory of missing soldiers, the assistance saw with great emotion a soldier's sister