

eral instances the intention and the purpose of such legislation is destroyed by having to fill out a simple little form which serves to advise you later that you do not qualify. Today ARDA is the victim of this type of administration.

May I mention another piece of legislation, the act to amend the assistance being offered for vocational education? The purpose of this bill was to fill the gap for various groups of students who could not qualify for assistance under the existing legislation. I was much in favour of this bill, for I had always taken an interest in vocational education, and I had faith in the bill and felt it was long overdue. However, again a simple little form has to be filled out by the applicant, with the result that today hundreds of students receive no assistance, not even under the most pressing hardship, while others are receiving up to \$85 per month, resulting in great confusion for the administration. And why? Because of a simple little form.

Hundreds of thousands of elderly people who will be required to fill out this form have never seen an income tax form in their lives. Are we not going to invite thousands of honest elderly people to be hesitant in some cases about telling the truth? Much could be said about that also. Are we not going to affect the economy of our country by inviting older people not to work any longer?

Honourable senators, pension or no pension, work is the basis of a healthy moral and spiritual life. Why do we have in this honourable chamber so many older senators? I am sure you are not staying here because of financial need, but because you believe in work and wish to continue, as you have in the past, to contribute to building a better Canada. You are to be complimented, and I trust that you will continue to contribute to our deliberations for many years to come. Honourable senators, if you believed in idleness you would not be here today, and yet, are we not presenting a bill that in many instances will promote idleness?

The days are not far away when we will be paying for our weakness in avoiding facing the facts in the most serious way. I believe we have too many laws today providing handouts without requiring effort—security without responsibility. Are we going to build a strong Canada by having one-half of the population sitting idle? We will find out very soon that retiring a wealth of knowledge, ability, experience and know-how at an early age will

not give the results we anticipated. I, for one, never have believed that the policy of sending home a good, producing citizen just because he has reached the age of 65, to make room for a newcomer to maturity, is the wisest thing to do. The results would have been much better had we created new jobs for the newcomers and left the older ones to continue their role in life and to contribute their share towards the development of Canada. This early forced retirement has placed hundreds of thousands of our citizens at the humiliating door of social assistance, or has condemned them to live out their lives in a state of poverty and misery.

Let us not depart from the principle that responsibility and obligations make democracy. Economy is governed by production, and production is the result of work.

Honourable senators, let us not continue to build up a population of handout seekers. Rather, let us devote our efforts to creating suitable employment for the various age groups—up to a certain limit, of course. We know that today the greater part of the Unemployment Insurance Fund is not always paid for the purpose for which it was intended. I am afraid that the same will happen with regard to this supplementary pension. It cannot be otherwise, unless you have an army of inspectors or snoopers, which will be costly and unpleasant.

Furthermore, it will open another door for politicians at the next general election, and I need not elaborate on this. I will support this bill with all my heart if it will help all the needy ones, but from past experience I have at the bottom of my heart some doubts.

I am sure that there are easier ways of finding the required \$280 million. An intelligent look around would have disclosed waste, extravagant and unnecessary expenditure that could have been curtailed, and by this means the necessary amount could be obtained.

I regret to say that due to poor administration on the part of this Government the members of the Senate and the House of Commons have to be here this week, at a time when parents want to be at home with their families and to feel for a short time the spirit of Christmas. I can see no reason in times of peace for forcing members of Parliament to sit during Christmas week. This bill could have been presented weeks ago, and with respect to the so-called mini-budget the Minister of Finance presented on Monday last, I would say that he could have done that also some weeks ago. In any event, the funds will