and stop waste and extravagance in every department. We should stop teaching that Canada owes us a living, like Kennedy said in the United States—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

**Mr. Benson:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, we on this side would be pleased to allow the hon. member to finish his remarks if he so wishes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Does the house give unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** There is no unanimous consent.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to take part in this debate and to second in an unqualified way the non-confidence motion introduced by the Social Credit Rally and which reads as follows:

"That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of making use of the powers and resources of the Bank of Canada for the purpose of alleviating the taxation burden which weighs upon Canadian, provincial and municipal taxpayers and for undertaking an efficient struggle against poverty in order to establish a just society."

Mr. Speaker, one of the most important, if not the essential step to take in order to come successfully to grips with poverty is to provide families with an income that may enable them to lead a free and happy life and to bring up their children decently to make first class citizens of them.

The Canadian Welfare Council which, last January 29th, published its report on the social policy in Canada, gave top priority to the increase in family allowances. Here is the text of that statement which in an admirable way sums up the stands of the Canadian Welfare Council, and I quote:

A sharp increase in family allowances and young people allowances from the federal government, with modified regulations regarding the income tax, is economically possible and socially advisable—

—as states Mr. Reuben C. Baetz, general director of the Canadian Welfare Council, on the occasion of the publication on Wednesday January 29th of the statement of the above said council which is entitled "Social policies for Canada".

In addition to many other advantages, a sharp increase in family allowances and young people allowances would mean a quick and fair means to fight poverty.

Such increase would be an immediate step, but probably only temporary if a guaranteed income plan, based on family size, must be instituted in the future.

Increased family and youth allowances are socially desirable for a number of good reasons. Among the 30 per cent of Canadian people living in poverty, according to the Economic Council of Canada, there are several thousand families with many children who, through their own volition and pride, succeeding in not depending on public assistance. It is perhaps an everyday irony for such families—

This fact should concern the nation. And this report goes on to state:

—that many of them have not even the minimum and very often have a family income lower than their neighbours who are living on welfare and get assistance, at least theoretically, according to their needs.

An increase in family allowances would be of great financial assistance to those low income families without putting them under a degrading justification of their needs, and without destroying their sense of dignity. Such increase would encourage them more to remain independent and without depending on welfare.

This would alleviate significantly the obligation for our welfare services according to needs by allowing them to give better service to those who have a good reason to benefit from them.

A more adequate family allowances plan should encourage families to keep their children in school. This is of special significance in the light of the growing need for better education.

• (4:50 p.m.)

An adequate family allowance system would help to reduce the marked regional differences in family incomes; it is quite an important point at a time when we are so much concerned with national unity.

An adequate family allowance system reduces the tendency to set up social insurance systems based on earnings by setting the benefits according to the size of the family rather than according to earnings only.

All citizens anxious for the establishment of a humanly just society will readily agree with those proposals of the Canadian Welfare Council.

If one refers, Mr. Speaker, to the debate held when the bill for the establishment of family allowances was introduced in 1944, it is interesting to note certain words of the mover of that bill in the house, the then prime minister, Mr. Mackenzie King.