

*Canada Pension Plan*

children. We have moved away from that and we think ourselves advanced. In fact, we have created many problems and only in the last decades are we really beginning to face them. The generations live apart. The filial bond is at something of a discount. To many of the young, it is a burden; to some of the old the toleration of their children is itself intolerable. One of the great problems of the aged is loneliness. This is a real challenge. Age itself has not fashioned this yoke; it is our society that is lacking—and this is a comment on an age that prides itself on its social consciousness.

We in this parliament and particularly in this generation must do something for a group of Canadians who reached their prime in the great depression of the 1930's. As late as 1935, one out of every seven Canadians was on relief. We hear appeals for self-reliance and advice to all to provide in advance for unhappy vicissitudes, and particularly for years of declining economic productivity. But how could a generation condemned to idleness through forces much larger than its own capabilities provide for the future when the impoverished present was so very terrible? Now in its later years we must take measures for those who were the victims of the economic holocaust that swept so much of the western world 30 years ago. This gives special urgency to enacting an additional measure at this time to provide for people in their older years.

There is another special problem which is most compelling. Our economy and our society is in the throes of a great revolution. It is a revolution based on the most sophisticated techniques of production and control. It goes by the name of automation. Automation is transforming not only our industrial and distributive processes but forces us to examine our concept of the value of work and the place of work in society since the dawn of history. We have glorified the biblical dictum that "by the sweat of thy brow shalt thou earn thy bread". One of the great humane values of the social revolution that swept Europe commencing with the middle years of the 19th century was the idea of the dignity of labour. This was not only a great egalitarian doctrine but held aloft a moral precept which is central to the highest ethical ideals of our civilization from its beginnings thousands of years ago. Now hyper-efficiency is forcing us to examine this central thesis of our society. It is forcing us to look to our directions and to prepare for results that we never really anticipated.

Some months ago in this house I mentioned the fact that 14 glassblower operators tend machines that produce all the glass bulbs and all the radio and television tubes, excepting picture tubes, for the United States. With that one exception, 14 tend machines which produce 90 per cent of the total. Some weeks later a colleague in the house, who apparently was paying careful attention to my remarks, was discussing this information with friends and they found it unbelievable. What was my authority? I told him I was quoting the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen).

In point of fact, this is the core of the problem. The direct relationship of commodities to labour expended fascinated the classical economists. It provided ideas for Adam Smith and David Ricardo, and inspired the revolutionary and evangelical economic theory of Karl Marx, who stood the labour theory of value on its head. Tomorrow we may not be relating directly commodities to labour expended. Fourteen men tend machines that produce 90 per cent of the bulbs and tubes—they might easily produce all that is required, plus a surplus. The measurement of output in terms of labour hours could become an obsolete concept. This is something quite revolutionary and goes to the root of our society, which is so intimately related to our economic processes.

We live in a country of abundance, despite the poverty which is too widespread. The representations made by the Ontario federation of labour on poverty in Ontario in 1964 are a challenge to all. The Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) has also pinpointed this problem and proposes to do some things about it. The Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) has special programs to stimulate growth in designated areas, and the over-all economic program of the government has taken certain important steps. It is a paradox that we have these areas of impoverishment in a society of abundance. It is also a most serious consideration that with a great potential in the western world much of the world community lives in abject poverty. Hunger is the first problem for more than half the human race, and our country which has increased its participation in foreign aid must continue to do even more. The fact remains that the new processes are producing great bounties and the problems of automation oblige us to examine with great seriousness the organization of the labour market.

I have been an advocate of more serious programs of industrial training and larger