

in their struggle for existence, to take advantage of the educational opportunities that this country provides.

(Translation):

Mr. Fernand Girard (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words in support of the resolution under consideration at this time, consisting in a request to the government for an increase in family allowances.

There can be no denying the fact that the sum of \$5, which the government had assumed to be an indispensable minimum for our families, in 1945, has gradually decreased in real value and that the family allowance cheque has lost 35 per cent of its worth, now being equal to a mere \$3.20.

In other words, if the government was of the opinion, in 1945, that Canadian families deserved a minimum of \$5, it should at this time, to be logical, be prepared to adjust the amount of this allowance to the present cost of living in this country.

Every time members in this house have asked for an increase in family allowances, there was always eagerness on the side of government benches to protest and to say: "Let's be serious, gentlemen. The government can only give money that it collects. Where are we to find the revenue to do this?"

It is unbelievable to see how often this argument is used by members of the government, and equally unbelievable to see how readily the government brushes it aside when it finds it convenient to do so.

When, for instance, we asked on behalf of the provinces for an increase in the field of income tax, the government said: "We can hardly grant more than 5 per cent, because that would make the situation unbearable for us". Some time later, the Prime Minister offered 10 per cent and, through some unbelievable and unaccountable miracle, the government had seen its way out of an unbearable situation.

Last year, when there was talk of increasing the rate of family allowances, the government was faced with the same problem: no money. It was not unwilling, but where could it find the money necessary for this purpose? Yet this same government, this

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year, is ready to spend \$180 million on health insurance. I am not opposed to this plan, but if it is considered practicable, why can't the money be found to boost family allowances?

In the last analysis, the government must realize that if the \$5 family allowance is now worth not much more than \$3.20, the worker's income has also been affected so that he is proportionately less able to provide for the security of his children. Everyone will also recognize that, since children are our greatest asset, they deserve the largest share of our national income. If we can spend two billion dollars on defence, which may be an important thing, why could we not afford more than one-hundredth of that amount for the welfare of our children? Why could we not do more for an asset that is so important to our country?

(Text):

On motion of Mr. Girard the debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATION OF CUMULATIVE INDEX TO "HANSARD"

Mr. Speaker: Before the adjournment, may I point out to hon. members that, if they look in their files of *Hansard*, they will find that there is a green sheet of heavy paper immediately preceding an index which covers the period from January 10 to January 31. This is a current index which it is proposed to make cumulative and have published for every 15 days during the course of this session. It may be that when we reach the committee of supply sittings or the sittings of the committee of ways and means, the *Hansard* index branch may find it difficult, because of the multiplicity of subjects dealt with in the committee of supply and of ways and means, to issue an index on this current basis. However, in any event it is felt certain that, except for that time toward the end of the session when there is a great multiplicity of subjects being dealt with, a cumulative index can be issued. I hope this improvement will help hon. members to find what they look for in the daily *Hansard*.

At ten o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.